

Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

It Takes Two



Photo: Phil Migliarese Jr.

Marc Minardi (right) helps partner Dennis Edelman with his studs in preparation for their domestic partners ceremony on Monday, March 25, inside the Green Room at the War Memorial Building on Van Ness Avenue. At least 130 same-sex couples are scheduled to take part in the mass civil ceremony, which will be performed by departing Supervisor Carole Migden and Mayor Willie Brown.

Eviction Planned for Castro Meth House...Again

by Dennis Conkin

More than a year after neighbors first began complaining to authorities about a Castro district drug house, a final eviction notice has been formally served and posted at 4197 17th Street, at Douglass.

Sheriff's deputies are scheduled to evict the tenants from the dilapidated property Wednesday, March 27, but some concerned neighborhood residents – who already won \$42,000 in small claims court judgments against its absentee landlords in January – aren't holding their breath.

"I'll believe it when I see it," said Douglass Street resident David Perry. "As someone who has worked closely with San Francisco city government for the last nine years of my life, I've lost whatever faith I've had in it."

According to Perry, improperly written or filed evictions have been served against the tenants five or six times before, without success. Tenants stopped paying rent at the site in November, 1994, the *Bay Area Reporter* has learned.

'Authorities Have Known'

"I'm frustrated and hurt that this sort of situation can be allowed to fester in the middle of a gay neighborhood, and that it can be allowed to continue when authorities at



Photo: Phil Migliarese Jr.

Suspected "crystal house" at 4197 17th St.

every level have known about it," Perry said.

Other neighbors also expressed little faith that the promised eviction proceedings would actually take place, and said the real issue lay with the city's lack of response to the situation.

"Why does it take two years to evict someone?" asked neighbor Kimberly Man-

Continued on page 18

Marks Introduces Transgender Protection Bill in State Senate

by Dennis Conkin

California Senator Milton Marks last week introduced Senate Bill 1964, a measure that would amend the Fair Housing and Employment Act to ban discrimination based on gender identity.

The state housing act currently outlaws discrimination in housing accommodations on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, or disability.

"It's a crime that transgenders and transsexuals are not expressly protected in any California law," Marks said in a press statement. "That's what my bill is intended to

correct – years of hatred and bigotry. If this bill is enacted it will be a tremendous historical step on the road to correct centuries of discrimination."

The measure would extend employment and housing protections to transsexuals and transgendered individuals, according to spokesperson Carole Stuart.

Marks defines gender identity as "one's person perception of his or her gender and the manner in which that person presents his or her gender to the public, which may include altering one's birth gender by a variety of means including, but not limited to, surgical procedures."

There is little question that leg-

islative protections for transgendered and transsexual individuals are needed, according to Human Rights Commission discrimination specialist Larry Brinkin.

Last year alone, the Human Rights Commission received more than 175 inquiries about the matter, which led to the formal filing of 32 complaints.

Discrimination against transgendered individuals in housing, employment, or public accommodations has been a violation of a San Francisco city ordinance since the passage of landmark legislation in December 1994.

"Some of the most serious complaints I have ever seen in my work with the Human Rights Commission have concerned transgendered persons," Brinkin said.

"The commission gets calls from all over the state for information and assistance from transgendered persons who have no laws or ordinances to prevent it," Brinkin said.

Although Marks's measure will be most likely heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee in April, no date for the hearing has been scheduled.

Political experts say the measure has little likelihood of passage out of committee because of the Republican majority. ▼

EDITORIAL

Your Vote Is Imperative

We take too much for granted here in the Bay Area, where the gay and lesbian lifestyle (whatever that is) flourishes. It wasn't always like this. We must never forget how many people, many of them no longer with us, fought long and hard for many of the privileges we now enjoy. Now, with the rise of the Christian Right and other fundamentalists, we must safeguard all that we have attained and strive to achieve even more.

As you look around the nation, gays and lesbians are battling on all fronts just to survive. In spite of this, many are coming out and

Continued on page 6

B.A.R. ENDORSEMENTS

PRESIDENT

Bill Clinton

CONGRESS, 8th DISTRICT

Nancy Pelosi

STATE SENATOR, 3rd DISTRICT

Angela Alioto

STATE ASSEMBLY, 13th DISTRICT

Carole Migden

STATE ASSEMBLY, 18th DISTRICT

Kevin Shelley

SUPERIOR COURT, OFFICE #7

Lillian Sing

SUPERIOR COURT, OFFICE #11

Kevin McCarthy

MUNICIPAL COURT, OFFICE #1

Kay Tsenin

Vote YES on PROP. A, B, and 203

Vote NO on all others

INSIDE THIS WEEK

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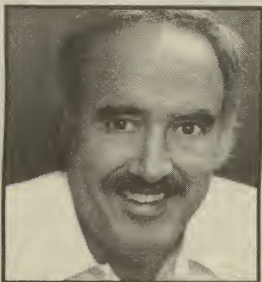
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ELECTION ENDORSEMENTS • VOTE TUESDAY, MARCH 26



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Matthew Rothschild

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MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE
MATTHEW ROTHSCHILD ▼

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|---|---------------|
| 13th DISTRICT, East Side of San Francisco | |
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| BRIAN CHEU ▼ | 91 |
| CLAUDINE CHENG | 92 |
| NATALIE BERG | 98 |
| RUSS PAULSEN | 96 |
| SUE BIERMAN | 99 |
| SABRINA SAUNDERS | 102 |
| TONY LEONE ▼ | 110 |
| LESLIE RACHEL KATZ ▼ | 113 |
| MARTHA KNUTZEN ▼ | 114 |
| HOLLI THIER | 115 |
| JIM WEST ▼ | 119 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| 12th DISTRICT, West Side of San Francisco | |
| ROBERT PENDER | 92 |
| LEE ANN HANNA PRIFTI | 94 |
| CLAIRE ZVANSKI | 96 |
| T.J. ANTHONY ▼ | 97 |
| JOSE MEDINA | 101 |
| ERIC MAR | 108 |
| ALICIA LARA ▼ | 109 |
| TONY KILROY | 114 |
| DIANNE TUBRIDY | 115 |
| CONNIE O'CONNOR ▼ | 116 |
| AMY QUIRK | 117 |
| ALEXANDER WONG | 119 |

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

PROP A **YES**
Improve Moscone Convention Center; 2000 more jobs.

PROP B **YES**
A transit-accessible Ballpark built with NO public funds.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

PROP 192 **YES**
Earthquake repair of state highways and bridges.

PROP 195 **NO**
Don't expand death penalty.

PROP 196 **NO**
Don't expand death penalty.

PROP 197 **NO**
Don't revive sport hunting of mountain lions.

PROP 198 **NO**
Don't let Republicans vote in Democratic primaries.

PROP 199 **NO**
Don't end rent control for mobile home residents.

PROP 200 **NO**
No-fault auto insurance & ban on car accident lawsuits.

PROP 201 **NO**
Don't limit shareholder challenges to corporations.

PROP 202 **NO**
Don't limit awards in personal injury lawsuits.

PROP 203 **YES**
Education bonds.

Gay & Lesbian candidates indicated by ▼

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YES ON A

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YES ON B

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Bravo for BRAVA!

Back row (l to r): Mabley (Ellen Sebastian), Artistic Director Ellen Gavin, Mayor Willie Brown and Carmen Miranda (Wilma Bonetti) and front row (l to r): Hamlet (June Momer) and Charlie Chaplin (Diana Wozniak) raise a glass of the bubbly to toast the new home of BRAVA! For Women in the Arts. The group has acquired the old York Theatre at 2789 24th St. and plans to convert the space into the BRAVA Theatre Center, a multidisciplinary theatre and teaching venue, in 1997.

ACT UP/SF: Wrestling at the Forum

by Dennis Conkin

An ACT UP/San Francisco member charges he was physically assaulted and thrown to the ground by an audience member last Saturday, March 16 during an angry contretemps at a SF Community Consortium meeting at Davies Medical Center.

But audience participants countercharge members of the controversial AIDS activist chapter are out of control, and need to be stopped from their campaign of disruption and intimidation.

The activists had interrupted the presentation on protease inhibitors by shouting questions at panelists, and ACT UP/SF member Michael DeHart says he was shoved to the ground and dragged into the hallway by conference participants. Project Inform volunteer Glen Reeder told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he restrained DeHart after the group disrupted the meeting and the activist "came towards me with a raised fist."

Reeder said he attempted to edge DeHart toward a door of the

conference site.

"I was angry," Reeder said. "He raised his fist and was walking towards me, and I put my arms around him to restrain him, I wanted him to shut up. It was pretty heated and it happened pretty fast."

"I was shaking afterwards, I was a bag of nerves."

DeHart suffered a minor abrasion in the brief melee.

Police were called to the scene, but initially described the altercation as "mutual combat," sources say, and did not arrest or cite anyone.

Just Doing Its Job

"I did not hit anyone," said longtime AIDS activist Hank Wilson. "But I did try to separate them."

"These people need to have charges filed against them," he said. "I was threatened."

Wilson said that he was angry with the activists' tactics, and said they should be held accountable by the community for their actions - which he said have become increasingly disruptive at forums fo-

cusing on treatment protocols they don't like.

"I don't take AZT and a nucleoside analog," Wilson said. "I don't always agree with everything, but I go to these meetings because I want to discuss treatments, because I wanted the information on protease inhibitors," he said.

Activist Michael Bellefountaine said that ACT UP/SF "was doing its job" by challenging San Francisco General Hospital AIDS physicians Dr. Paul Volberding and Donald Abrams about scientific issues related to the use of such drugs.

"ACT UP/San Francisco didn't throw the first punch," Bellefountaine said.

Reeder told the *B.A.R.* that the net result of the confrontational tactics is that future forums won't be held because of the high costs of hiring security to ensure such incidents don't happen.

"That's expensive, so they don't get held - and people with AIDS who are dying and need the information do not get it," he said. ▼

Kisses on Your Opening: Meet the New Castro Stores

by Dennis Conkin

Two new Castro businesses officially kick off this month - one of which recently opened, but will have an official grand opening next week, and one that is just opening for business this weekend.

This Saturday, March 23, Tom Peasant Pies will open a new location at 4117 18th Street, near Castro.

Already well-known for its modest flagship shop in Noe Valley, the company's second store in the Castro will feature new selections of handheld breakfast pies and daily specials including eight vegetarian, three seafood, and dairy-free fresh fruit pies.

Popularized in the fishing port of Sete, France in the 19th century, handheld pies are an "informal and simple food," according to Gerard Long, the Cordon Bleu-trained co-founder of the store.

"We are committed to serving neighborhoods where we work and live, and we are proud to have donated our pies to Project Open Hand, Under One Roof, and other worthy organizations," said partner Ali Keshavarz.

Hat's the Spirit!

A week later, on March 30, Ultimate Yogurt and More on Castro Street will celebrate the grand opening of its store with a benefit for Project Open Hand and a "Tutti Frutti Hat Contest," judged by KRON television personality Jan Wahl, who will be in the store from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

The winner of the contest will receive a shopping and dining spree worth \$350, according to co-owner Jeff Shuman. The top five runners-up will win discount coupon books for Ultimate Yogurt products - and the opportunity to attend a feature film with Wahl. Photos of all contestants will also

be prominently displayed at the 18th and Castro shop, which features smoothies, fresh juice drinks, and non-fat yogurt products.

Profits from the store's sales for the day will benefit Project Open Hand, and the store plans to donate products to the non-profit group's Food Bank on an ongoing basis, Shuman said.


"We look forward to assisting the local gay and lesbian community by donating food to Project Open Hand's food bank, supporting its volunteer appreciation benefits, and donating profits from our grand opening to fund their compassionate, much-needed work," Shuman told the *B.A.R.*

An openly gay man living with HIV since 1983, Shuman said he has always wanted to operate a store on Castro Street. The site is one of six Ultimate Yogurt locations in the Bay Area. ▼

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Smokeless Tobacco

Smokeless tobacco is an integral part of the recreational activity for some people. The dangers of this form of tobacco are becoming well known. People who are serious about their health and their performance avoid smokeless tobacco because it causes dizziness and slows reaction time.

Smokeless tobacco, which includes chewing tobacco and snuff, is not only addictive, but can cause numerous health problems. Users have a higher risk of developing oral cancer, and long time users have 50 times greater risk of developing cancer of the lower lip and gums.

Smokeless tobacco is a chemical irritant which causes gum tissue to swell and then shrink. The receding gums leave teeth and roots sensitive and hard to clean. Exposure to tobacco, and the sugar that is added for flavor, wears down tooth surfaces and results in tooth decay. A white leathery patch (leukoplakia) may form in the area of the mouth where the tobacco is placed and could be the sign of a pre-cancerous area. Leukoplakia and other forms of oral disease associated with smokeless tobacco can be reversed with early detection and treatment.

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Assemblymember, District 14 **Dion Aroner**

Alameda County

Supervisor, District 1 **Domenic Torchia**

District 4 **Mary King**

District 5 **Keith Carson**

Superior Court Judge, Office 3 **Barbara Miller**

Democratic Central Committee,
District 14 **Sara Hamlen**
Vicky Kolakowski

Royce Kelley

Dick Lewis

Maggie Gee

Harold Wilson

Oakland

Councilmember, At-Large **Rena Rickles**

District 1 **Jane Brunner**

District 7 **Larry Reid**

School Director, District 1 **Ken Rice**

District 7 **Diane Raulston**

Berkeley/Albany

Municipal Court Judge **Carol Brosnahan**

For a complete list of endorsements or more information about
ebj/gdc, call (510) 655-7539



Photo: Jane Philomen Clend

Mom Takes the Prize

Trinity A. Ordon's beaming mother congratulates her daughter on her Lesbians of Achievement, Vision and Action (LAVA) award at the group's annual dinner, a benefit for A Fund of Our Own, March 16. Other award recipients were LA/Happy Hyder and Shoshana Rosenberg.

Gay San Jose Welder Sues Former Job for Discrimination

by Dennis Conkin

A gay San Jose man who worked as an assembler for World Wide Acquisitions and Sales for three months last year has filed suit against the company on anti-gay job discrimination charges.

According to the lawsuit filed by the Law Offices of Paul Wotman, welder Phillip Sanford began working for the company in September 1995, making card shuffling devices used in gaming houses.

Sanford did so well on the job he was given a raise after just one month, according to attorney Gary Cloutier.

But two months after he was hired, the lawsuit says Sanford overheard a co-worker refer to him as "a faggot."

Sanford complained to his supervisor at the firm, Cloutier said — but instead of correcting the problem, the supervisor responded

that the news Sanford was gay was "all over the shop."

Shortly after the initial incident, Sanford began to be the subject of more anti-gay harassment.

In one incident, a co-worker turned to another in Sanford's presence and asked, "Have you every seen a faggot before?" as both men turned to look at him.

According to the lawsuit, Sanford was then repeatedly referred to as "a faggot" in the work environment. When a co-worker complained to Sanford's supervisor that Sanford was being subjected to the taunts, the supervisor laughed and treated the information as a joke — and never attempted to stop or prevent the anti-gay verbal and emotional harassment.

The work conditions grew intolerable, and Sanford was constructively discharged in December 1995.

The lawsuit seeks in excess of \$1,000,000 in damages from the

loss of income and benefits.

Anti-gay workplace discrimination is illegal under state law, and Cloutier told the *Bay Area Reporter* Sanford's claim for damages was bolstered because he had informed superiors about his working conditions, instead of simply leaving his position and seeking legal action.

Cloutier said a recent Appeals Court ruling requires workers to inform their employers that working conditions are intolerable, and give them a chance to correct the situation, before filing legal action charging such conditions.

"We are pursuing this case with the hopes of raising awareness about the continuing and frequent problem of sexual orientation discrimination in the workplace," Wotman said. "The company managers knew about the harassment and failed to stop it, creating an intolerable working environment." ▼

Free SF G/L/B/T Immigration Legal Clinic Next Saturday

by Hakeem Oseni II

The Lesbian & Gay Immigration Task Force will host a free legal clinic for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered people in the San Francisco Bay Area Saturday, March 30 from noon to 4 p.m.

The clinic, at 1360 Mission Street, will provide a free, private consultation with a volunteer immigration attorney to those people who have questions about their immigration status or about other immigration or asylum issues. All consultations are private and strictly confidential.

"There is a tremendous need for legal information about immigration and asylum in the queer community," said Shannon Minter, Staff Attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, which sponsors the task force. "That is particularly true for people who are in bi-national relationships, because same gender relationships are not recognized by

U.S. immigration law.

"For the non-U.S. partner it can be difficult or impossible to find a legal way to stay in this country."

Minter told the *Bay Area Reporter* there is no one solution, but the clinic will offer gays and lesbians the opportunity to sit down with a lawyer and see if there is any possible solution in their individual cases.

"Under U.S. immigration law," she said, "the two main ways to get permanent residence are through an immediate family relationship — which usually means marriage — or employment."

She also said the law is very biased in favor of people with high education and professional credentials.

And, she said, "Many people are not aware that lesbian, gay, transsexuals, and bisexual individuals may be eligible for political asylum if they were persecuted in their country of origin because of

their sexual identity or gender identity."

The task force plans to hold three such clinics a year, according to Minter. "One of our goals is to educate the queer community about the importance of immigration issues," she told the *B.A.R.*

"The purpose of this clinic is to give people a one-time free consultation. In that way they will have the information to know whether it will be worth their time and money to retain an attorney. We also give people information about other free legal resources."

She added that people with HIV can obtain free legal representation on immigration issues through the San Francisco Bar Association. ▼

Contact Shannon Minter at (415) 392-6257 to sign up for a time slot or for more information. Advance reservations are strongly recommended.

Oakland AIDS Housing Complex Opens Today

13 Affordable Units in East Bay

by Cynthia Laird

The Marlon Riggs Apartments opened today (Thursday, March 21) in Oakland, as the East Bay's first newly-constructed affordable housing for low-income people with AIDS.

Local and national officials are scheduled to speak at the 5 p.m. grand opening and dedication ceremony at the apartment complex, located at 269 Vernon Street. The apartments will provide 13 units of permanent, supportive housing for persons disabled with AIDS. Resources for Community Development (RCD) developed the project.

The complex is named in honor of Marlon Riggs, the highly acclaimed producer, director, and filmmaker who died of AIDS on April 5, 1994. Riggs established an international reputation for his groundbreaking films confronting racism and homophobia.

According to RCD Project Services Coordinator Kate Emanuel, about 40-50 applications have been received for the apartments. Although prospective residents are in the process of being interviewed, Emanuel said applications are still being accepted.

RCD spokeswoman Isobel White stated that both on-site and off-site support services will be provided to the residents. Catholic Charities will be offering those support services through the Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS. White and Emanuel noted. The HOPWA program is administered through Alameda County's Housing and Community Development Program.

According to Emanuel, an AIDS case manager and peer counselor have already been hired for the apartment complex residents. A resident manager will also work on site.

Scheduled speakers at today's dedication ceremony include Oakland Mayor Elihu Harris; Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson; former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, now with the federal Housing and Urban Development Department; Carla Javits of the Corporation for Supportive Housing; and Jack Vincent, Riggs's life partner.

Financing for the Marlon Riggs Apartments was provided by the City of Oakland, HUD, and the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

RCD is a nonprofit housing de-



The Marlon Riggs Apts.

velopment corporation dedicated to creating and preserving affordable housing in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. The Marlon Riggs Apartments is RCD's 11th completed project, bringing the agency's inventory to 301 units of permanent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income individuals and families, White said. ▼

To request a resident application for the Marlon Riggs Apartments, call (510) 433-7419.

Filipino AIDS Awareness Week Starts March 26

by Rene M. Astudillo

The nine counties comprising the San Francisco Bay Area are home to the largest Filipino population outside of the Philippines. According to the 1990 census, more than 283,000 Filipinos reside in the Bay Area. In the city and county of San Francisco alone, there are more than 42,000 Filipino residents.

But all is not well in these large numbers. Filipinos have the highest number of AIDS cases among Asians and Pacific Islanders - in San Francisco as in the rest of the U.S. This has alarmed concerned members of the community, and has prompted the institution of Filipino-targeted agencies and programs around HIV prevention and care.

It was in recognition of this alarming situation, as well as the work being undertaken by various community organizations to address the epidemic in the Filipino community, that caused then-Mayor Frank Jordan to proclaim March 26 to April 1 each year as "Filipino AIDS Awareness Week." This annual observance aims to focus public attention not only on the growing number of Filipino AIDS cases, but on the need for increased awareness about HIV within the community.

A 1990 survey conducted among Filipino households in San Francisco shows a low level of awareness on how HIV is transmitted. On the other hand, a 1991 study conducted among Filipino gay and bisexual men in the city shows a sufficient knowledge of HIV transmission - which, how-

ever, does not translate into safer sex practices.

In the forefront of the community's response to the epidemic is the Filipino Task Force on AIDS (FTFA), which continues to struggle with limited funding to maintain AIDS awareness programs and activities and to provide adequate care to its Filipino AIDS clients. Other Bay Area organizations also provide prevention education and direct care services to Filipinos. Among these agencies are the Living Well Project and the Asian AIDS Project in San Francisco, and the Asian Health Services and the Filipinos for Affirmative Action in Oakland. For many years now, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has also recognized the need to reach out to the Filipino community by including Tagalog and other Filipino dialects in its AIDS hotline.

Highlighting this year's observance of Filipino AIDS Awareness Week is an open house on Friday, March 29, from 6-9 p.m., at the newly renovated office of the Filipino Task Force on AIDS, located at 1540 Market Street, Suite 325. FTFA plays host to a weekly gathering - in a social setting - of Filipino gay and bisexual men to discuss HIV prevention and how they can help promote community awareness and mobilization around the epidemic.

This prevention program, called *Tomboy* (Tagalog term for "a place to gather"), is funded by a grant from the Federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Through the San Francisco AIDS Office, FTFA also receives Ryan White Care funds to help sustain its client services. ▼



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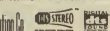
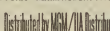
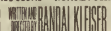
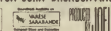
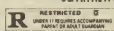


MARGARET CHO BRUCE DAVISON LEE GRANT
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ENDORSEMENTS

Your Vote

Continued from page 1

being elected against strong opposition by a united conservative front. We mustn't forget that what we fight for is basic human and civil rights. To see what can happen when you don't vote, or give up, you only have to look at the current make-up of the conservative Republican Congress. We must not make that mistake of selling them short or pass them off as a quirk of fate. They are strong and they are organized. They base their power on hate and bigotry, on differences in lifestyles and ethnic backgrounds. We must remember that everyone pooched Reagan being elected, and said it couldn't happen, and it did. Dole is in that same position, and espouses more of the conservative agenda.

We are fortunate to have many qualified and competent gay and lesbian candidates running for public office in our ballots, check them out and give them your vote of confidence. There are also proven candidates who believe in the same causes and liberties that we espouse, they also deserve your vote as they have earned it. Get past the hype and take the best that we have to offer.

Your vote will always make a difference, so don't stay home on election day (unless you have voted by absentee ballot). Get out and exercise your rights. Let the nation know that we will continue our battle for the civil and human rights for all.

ENDORSEMENTS

PRESIDENT

BILL CLINTON

CONGRESS, 8TH DISTRICT
NANCY PELOSI

STATE SENATOR, 3RD DISTRICT
ANGELA ALIOTO

We believe that Angela's free thinking and no attachments to any outside interests would best serve our community. She has a tough uphill battle against her opponent, but Angela is a fighter and we believe she can win.

STATE ASSEMBLY,
13TH DISTRICT
CAROLE MIGDEN

This is a rare opportunity for all voters to vote twice. This election is both a special as well as regular election. If Carole gets a majority vote she can be sworn into the assembly right away. We believe that the Republican majority at the moment is in for a surprise when Carole gets to Sacramento. She is a tough politician and won't take any crap from those boneheads. We wish her the best and also good luck in her new job.

STATE ASSEMBLY,
18TH DISTRICT
KEVIN SHELLEY

Kevin has been a long-time supporter of our community and has earned your vote. He will be an asset for the city in Sacramento.

SUPERIOR COURT, OFFICE #7
LILLIAN SING

Although Judge Sing is running unopposed in this race, she deserves your vote of confidence. Lillian has served as a municipal court judge since 1981. She is always fair and impartial. She has been a good friend of our community and works hard in other minority communities as well. This is a rare case to beat the governor and his appointments. Give Judge Sing a strong vote of thanks and we have gained another fair Judge in Superior Court.

SUPERIOR COURT, OFFICE #11
KEVIN MCCARTHY

Kevin is an openly gay San Francisco man running against a new Wilson appointee - who lives in Marin County. That judge has no ties to San Francisco and should not have been appointed. Kevin

brings knowledge and experience to the bench. He will be a fair and honest judge. He needs your vote.

MUNICIPAL COURT, OFFICE #1
KAY TSENIN

This race has three openly gay candidates running. Our choice is Kay Tsenin, who for the past ten years has served as a volunteer municipal court judge pro tem and as a court-appointed arbitrator. She will bring to the bench 22 years of practical law experience in both civil and criminal matters. She has many years experience as an unpaid volunteer attorney for many organizations that serve women, gays, AIDS patients, the elderly and others who needed help. The skills and experience she brings with her to the bench are immeasurable. Judge Sing, whose seat she is running for, has also endorsed Kay Tsenin and believes she would make a great judge.

LOCAL PROPOSITIONS

PROP. A

VOTE YES

Moscone Expansion

San Francisco's main industry is tourism and conventions. The expansion of Moscone Center would assure the city of continued prosperity by enabling it to attract larger conventions. We think you should endorse this proposition and vote yes on Prop. A.

PROP. B

VOTE YES

New Ballpark

On the surface this proposition looks good. We will keep an eye on the progress and continue to update our readers. If it can be built without public funds we are all for it. Vote yes on B.

STATE PROPOSITIONS

PROP. 192

VOTE NO

Seismic Retrofit Bond Act

Cal-Trans has always relied upon gas taxes to pay for and maintain the state's highways and bridges. Why change now, when this bond issue would cost the taxpayers over one and a half billion dollars in interest and fees? The total of this bond issue comes to over \$3.5 billion. An additional penny or two at the gas pump would do the job better than a bond issue. It amazes us that this agency is now crying poor mouth after it was able to repair southern California's freeways and bridges in the wake of the Northridge earthquake by paying double- and triple-time wages to get the job done in record time. We urge a no vote on Prop. 192.

PROP. 193

VOTE NO

Property Appraisal Exception

This would allow grandparents to transfer property to their grandchildren without triggering a new tax assessment on the property. This is just more manipulation of the Prop. 13 initiative. It would benefit a small number of persons who are already well off. We hope to see another initiative on the November ballot trying to clean up and streamline Prop. 13, so wait until then. For now, vote no on proposition 193.

PROP. 194

VOTE NO

Prisoner Unemployment Benefits.

Another attack on the rights of prisoners, this would exempt the companies that hire cheap prison labor from paying unemployment benefits to prisoners after the job was over. Just another windfall for large companies to stop paying the unemployment taxes as required by federal law. We don't know how legal this is, but at any rate it smells foul. We urge a no vote on Prop. 194.

PROP. 195, 196

VOTE NO

To Extend The Death Penalty Under Special Circumstances

Both of these propositions would extend

the death penalty under certain circumstances, including carjacking, murder of a juror, and drive-by shootings. But with sufficient laws on the books now to cover these incidents we don't have to kowtow to some special interest groups in Southern California. We don't support the death penalty in any case, but to keep adding special circumstances each year it seems that sooner or later we could all face death for some dumb accident in our future lives. Please vote no on both of these propositions, 195 and 196.

PROP. 197

VOTE NO

Mountain Lion Hunting

Talk about another stupid law - it has taken us years to replenish this endangered species, and now they want to hunt it back into extinction. We don't care what they say about limits, etc., we know what will happen to this beautiful large cat. Look around the outlying countryside and you see deer multiplying all over. We finally give nature a chance to cull these herds with a natural predator - and now we want to kill the predator? We urge you all to vote no on Prop. 197 and help save the mountain lions.

PROP. 198

VOTE NO

Open Primaries

What a way for special interest groups and other self-effacing politicians to manipulate the election process! Our selection process may be skewed in the state, but this proposition is not the answer to this problem. We acknowledge that reform is needed, but we agree with Common Cause on this one. Vote no on Prop. 198.

PROP. 199

VOTE NO

Mobile Home Rent Control Ban

A lot of California's low cost housing is in mobile home parks and complexes. This law is just another step in hurting folks that don't need more dumping on. Look at this law as another in a long string of overturning the state's precarious rent control laws. Remember that most people who live in mobile homes are on fixed incomes, and many are retired or unemployed. Lets not give some of these greedy landlords or property owners another raise. Please vote no on Prop. 199.

PROP. 200, 201, 202

VOTE NO, NO, NO

No-Fault Insurance

We have always favored no-fault insurance, but this proposition is not the answer. If you carefully read the voters pamphlet you will find that this is just another proposition put out by the insurance companies. This proposition and its two companion pieces, Props 201 and 202, are nothing more than insurance company scams. Please don't be misled: while they may appear to read well, they are not quite what one would believe them to be. Don't be duped by the insurance industry. Vote no on Prop. 200.

Attorneys Fee/Shareholder Actions

See the warning about the preceding proposition; don't lose your rights to sue a company at fault. This is another insurance scam to save moneys for that industry. Again, vote no on Prop. 201.

Attorney Contingency Fees, Limits

Once again, just some built-in protection for the insurance companies. Vote no on Prop. 202.

PROP. 203

VOTE YES

School Bonds

This public facilities' bond issue is a lot less money than voters have approved for prisons in the past. It is money that is desperately needed to repair our school buildings. Some people think that we are not teaching our kids properly - that may be, but we must stop trying to educate them in unsafe buildings. This is a long overdue measure and does merit your vote. If we give students a better atmosphere and cleaner facilities, they probably will take more interest in both their schools and their studies. Vote yes on Prop. 203. ▼

LETTERS

Demo Central Committee race

The upcoming primary election on Tuesday, March 26th, has generated a great deal of interest in the gay, lesbian, bi and transgendered community, because of the many important races in San Francisco and San Jose featuring gay and lesbian candidates. Here in the East Bay there is a much quieter race which could have a serious impact on representation of gay and lesbian people in Alameda County Democratic Party politics. Presently, three active members of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, myself, Sara Hamlen, and EBL/GDC President Tara Kelly, serve on the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee (Sara and I are members, and Tara is Sara's alternate). Sara and I are seeking reelection in the 14th Assembly District. If we are not reelected, there will be no openly gay or lesbian voting representatives at the highest levels of Alameda County Democratic Party politics.

Because I am the Treasurer of the Alameda County Democratic Party, as well as a community leader in Berkeley, I have been successful in obtaining all four of the major Democratic club endorsements (the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club, the Berkeley Democratic Club, the East Oakland Democratic Club and the John George Democratic Club). Nevertheless, this does not ensure that I'll be reelected. And Sara has not been as fortunate as I have, and has received the endorsements of only the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club and the John George Democratic Club. Since the other two clubs are widely distributing their endorsements, I am concerned about Sara's reelection. I believe that it is essential that gay and lesbian voters in the district rally behind our candidates, to ensure that we'll maintain a strong voice in Alameda County Democratic Party politics. I therefore urge all of you who are Democrats and vote in Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and portions of West, North and Downtown Oakland, to vote to reelect Sara Hamlen and Vicky Kolakowski on Tuesday, March 26th.

Vicky Kolakowski
Berkeley

Don't Prop up the power elite

Proposition 198, the open primary initiative, would allow voters in primary elections to vote for candidates of any political party. For example, Republican voters could help select the Democratic nominee to run in the November election.

Currently California has the only open primaries to fill seats left open by the death or resignation of an incumbent midway through the term. In the 1987 special election for SF's congressional seat, GOP voters helped elect Nancy Pelosi over Harry Britt in the primary, denying Britt the chance to become the first non-incumbent openly gay man elected to Congress.

This initiative comes just as gays and lesbians are finally getting a seat at the table in Sacramento and Washington. It would slam the door on other minority and progressive candidates. Its purpose is to keep power in the grasp of the white bread establishment. Vote no on 198.

Leonard Whitney
San Francisco

Rose of Marin

A friend of our community is up for re-election in Marin on March 26. Her name is Annette Rose, and she's the Marin County supervisor for Mill Valley, Sausalito and the Tiburon Peninsula.

When she took office in 1993, Marin County's domestic partners bill was still only one citizen's proposal, and under heavy attack by the local right wing. Annette had no hesitation about supporting it: she was pleased - even flattered - to sponsor it, and glad that something this historic was the first ordinance that would bear her name. Its April 1993 passage, over furious right-wing opposition, was a victory the Marin gay and lesbian community needed at that time.

Since then, she has been supportive and helpful, particularly on HIV funding and needle-exchange issues. The entire Bay Area community is more secure, more assured of progress, with elected officials like Annette Rose in front-line counties like Marin.

Annette Rose faces opposition on March 26. If you live in southern Marin, or know someone who does, Annette Rose needs your vote. If you live elsewhere in the Bay Area, she would still appreciate your support, sent to the Annette Rose Campaign, 1001 Bridgeway Blvd. #105, Sausalito, CA 94965.

Robert D. Harmon
Mill Valley, CA

Ballpark support

In response to a recent letter on Prop. B, the letter talked about the Giants not having "Until There's A Cure Day" until 1994. Peter Magowan and the other partners have been in control since 1993! If you want to complain, talk to the previous owner, Bob Lurie.

I commend the Giants for their involvement in the fight against AIDS, and I'm giving them my support for the new ballpark. Since they are paying all costs, why not support it?

I'm voting yes on B!

Darryl Thompson
San Francisco

GOP Central Committee race

As a Past President of the Log Cabin Club of San Francisco and a longtime member of the San Francisco Republican County Central Committee who is retiring after more than seven years of service on the committee, some personal observations.

There are five gay Republicans running for a seat on the San Francisco Republican County Central Committee, and they deserve your vote. They include Fredric Hamber, former executive director of California Republicans for Choice and the California Republican League in the 12th Assembly District; and in the 13th Assembly District: G. Michael German, a civil rights attorney and former dinner co-chair of BALIF; Scott Furman, a campaign consultant who ran the petition drive for the MUNI audit; Steve Fong, president of Log Cabin and former co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay Alliance of City College; and Edwin "Ted" Turrell, a past president of Log Cabin and former president of the American Society of Interior Designers.

There are also a number of other "gay-friendly" candidates running on the Citizens for a Better San Francisco slate as well as Incumbents Don Casper and Dana Walsh who deserve your support. Call me at 826-4835 for more information.

On the other hand, there are candidates who have manifested overt homophobia who do not deserve a single gay vote. These include Terence Faulkner, Bob Silvestri, Dennis Mark, and newcomers Manber and Gonzales. If you live in the 12th AD, be sure to vote for Howard Epstein over Faulkner for the Republican nomination.

Finally, on the race for President, Bob Dole has the nomination locked up and will probably defeat Buchanan in California by a 60% to 30% vote. I am voting for Richard Lugar who is the only candidate on the ballot to stand up to the Christian Coalition when they held a rally in Iowa attacking gay marriages. Lugar also has a 75% rating by Log Cabin Republicans for his voting record in the Senate. It is unfortunate that the primary system is stacked in such a way that very conservative rural states can dictate who ultimately remain in the race and that quality candidates like Lugar were forced to drop out.

Christopher L. Bowman
San Francisco

The humans of Milk kindness

We are responding to a recently published "open letter to the new leadership of the Harvey Milk Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club" (B.A.R., 3/07/96). We are appalled at the inflammatory tone of the letter, its erroneous content and the libelous nature of the author's attacks on club members.

The Harvey Milk Club recently endured a contentious race for club leadership. Since the general election, differences between the "old" leadership and the newly elected Progressive Leadership Slate have continued to surface, with tensions exhibited at the Club's first caucus meeting. The author of the letter singles out just one issue of many concerns that emerged at the difficult meeting and implies that a physical assault took place by the person named, which is patently untrue. This character assassination must be addressed.

After the caucus incident on February 7, the Executive Committee met February 7 and took immediate action, citing the incident between a club officer and the club's former president as unacceptable on the part of the officer. Immediately, the following occurred:

- The officer wrote a letter "unequivocally apologizing" to the woman and her partner and owning his "unacceptable, embarrassing behavior." The letter was accepted by the aggrieved party.

- Mediation was offered to the aggrieved party and turned down.

- The aggrieved party has stated she requires no further action on the part of the club or the officer.

- A Task Force was set up to draft policy guidelines for the club that would mandate behavior during club meetings and on the part of all club members that would be respectful, non-judgmental, and non-abusive. Composed of the three signatories of this letter, we are receiving input from club members and developing guidelines that will make the club a safer space for women (particularly important since the aggrieved party was a woman and the officer a man), and a more empowering place for people of color.

None of these responsive and responsible actions were acknowledged in the previous letter. The Milk Club is committed to seriously addressing the concerns that arose out of that evening - as well as the historic concerns of women and people of color within the Milk Club - and ensuring our members treat one another with respect. Never should members of our communities feel threatened by other members.

It is sad that certain individuals feel the need to continue raising this issue as if it were not being carefully and earnestly dealt with and as if the parties involved had asked for it to be continued.

It is outrageous that members of our communities continue to address their issues in the media, instead of in face-to-face discussions, or through a process that has specifically been developed. We would hope that in the future, so-called "open letters" would first be presented to the body in question, rather than just to the press, as in this unfortunate case.

Milk Club Task Force:
Gwenn Craig, Eileen Hansen, Maria Salazar

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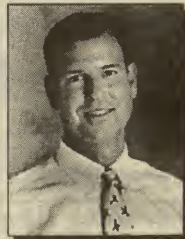
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LETTERS

Court intrigues

As one of the candidates for Emperor of San Francisco this year, I am compelled to write in response to Mr. Marcus's column (*Bay Area Reporter*, 2/29) and his vicious accounting of the Imperial race.

Marcus has known me for years and to have implied that I would have taken part in any of the despicable actions that he reported is a misjudgment of character and I take personal offense.

I ran a basic campaign with dignity. No one on my team did anything that resembled poor taste or nastiness. I am proud and honored to have had these fine individuals working so hard for me and the cause. Hopefully, they were not too turned off by the game and will continue to contribute to the community in some manner.

Yes, I also experienced some unpleasantities during the five weeks of campaigning and am a bit disenchanted with everything. I did not report or whine about it because I knew it came with the territory. All organizations have problems and the leather segment has had their share as well. Unfortunately, money, politics and egos get in the way of the ultimate goal.

My campaign promoted the positive aspects of 31 years of empire. As Emperor I A.N., why would you not focus on the same? Instead you chose to damage the very foundation you helped build based primarily on rumor and hearsay.

It's not about power, it's about giving back. Last year, without title or aspirations, events that I produced raised over \$20,000 for charity. I never used that information during my campaign because I believe we all deserve the credit. I never could have raised that amount without the help of each person; from co-producers to emcees, and from beer-pourers to the person who spent their last dollar on a raffle ticket. Thank you all and continue to believe. Goodness shall prevail.

Marcus, here's a news flash. You don't have to have a title to make a difference, and some that have one, don't. The power of the press is strong, and perhaps you should think before promoting negativity. The Imperial Court has done some wonderful things, but your article would make people think otherwise.

I may not have received the crown on March 2, but I'll be around, doing what I've always been doing and focusing on the tiny bits of light in the darkness. Life is far too short.

Jacques Michaels
San Francisco

[Mr. Marcus, Emperor I of San Francisco, A.N., responds: As you stated in your undated letter, ostensibly to the editor, since it was not addressed on the letter to anyone in particular, yes, I have known you for a long time. Further, I have been an admirer of yours as well.]

That's why I was shocked to read that you felt I was somehow maligning you personally in my column on the voting for the imperial titles.

You personally and your campaign people were the farthest from my mind when I wrote that article.

For you to think I was writing about you personally is a very unfortunate conclusion for you to make. I heard about the bomb threats made to Marlena's Bar, and I received at least seven vicious letters from someone who was supporting Rob, against Steve. Your name or your campaign workers did not surface at all in any of the bullshit that transpired. For that, I would have voted for you and also in view of your community involvement these many years.

I regret you feel that I was attacking you or your committee; knowing you as I do, I deep down knew you were not involved in any of that viciousness. I still admire you no matter what you may think. I suggest you re-read the article. Nothing in it implies your involvement.]

Faithful allegiance

On the eve of your 25th anniversary, it is about time to take pen (read: typewriter) and let you know how lucky I feel to live in San Francisco as a gay man and to be privileged to be able to read your fine paper each week without fail.

While I move in many circles of our rich and colorful community, the one that attracts my interest the most is the leather community, and frankly, that leads to my deep admiration and faithful allegiance to the writings of your leather columnist, Mister Marcus.

This week's issue with Marcus's insightful reporting on the imperial coronation only strengthens my belief that here is a writer with in-depth knowledge of not only his beloved leather brothers and sisters, but the equally important court system as we all know it to be in the 90s.

I commend your newspaper, your news coverage of all segments of the community (sports, politics, drag, royalty, medicine, and the arts) and hope your paper will continue to be the outstanding news journal it has always been for another 25 years and beyond.

Thank you for being there — everywhere — and thanks for keeping Mr. Marcus on the staff. My perception and deep feeling is that not only is Mr. Marcus a treasure in his own community, but in the leather communities around the world. I base this statement on conversations with people around the country and in foreign leather circles.

Frank Tluszc
San Francisco

Is the Roof Falling?

When Under One Roof began, I was a big fan. Back when it ran only during the holidays. Back when it was run by volunteers, and sold donated goods. Back when its expenses were all underwritten by foundations and corporations. And back when it was truly a "cash cow" raising large sums of money for AIDS service organizations strapped for cash.

Times have changed at Under One Roof. I, for one, can no longer treat this former "cash cow" as a sacred cow. I believe it is time for Under One Roof's Board of Directors to take a cold hard look at the facts, and decide whether Under One Roof still makes sense.

In a recent letter to its beneficiaries, Under One Roof's Interim Chief Executive Officer Vance M. Yoshida wrote, "We are delighted to enclose a check representing your portion of the 1995 Holiday Trim Program. Once again, this effort was a proven winner, with a 63% return on investment. For each \$100 invested, the payback is \$162.90."

This sounds like good news, doesn't it? It may be in the retail industry. It isn't in a charity. And Under One Roof is a charity. After all, it declared itself an AIDS service organization a couple of years ago.

In charities, success is calculated with "costs of fundraising," not "returns on investments." The cost of fundraising for Under One Roof's 1995 Holiday Trim Program was more than 61%. In other words, if a customer bought an ornament for a dollar, less than 39 cents went to an AIDS service organization.

What "delighted" Mr. Yoshida would trouble most fundraisers I know. Because generally a 10% cost of fundraising is considered excellent; 25% is usually okay; and a big, fancy special event might even reach 40%. But sixty one percent fundraising costs? That's really pushing the envelope. Especially during the holidays, when people are so generous.

Unfortunately, the news gets worse later in Under One Roof's letter. The 1995 Holiday Card Project was not a success, and no money from that campaign will be distributed to AIDS service organizations. The letter didn't say how much the Holiday Card Campaign cost. But mailing 78,000 catalogs sure wasn't cheap — and 100,000 unsold cards sounds pretty bad. Which brings us to the critical question. What was the cost of fundraising for all of 1995 at Under One Roof?

I hope your readers will ask this question, and others, when they attend Under One Roof's annual meeting on Wednesday, March 27th, at 6:30 p.m., at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's 6th Floor Conference Room, at 25 United Nations Plaza (at Market between 7th & 8th Streets). I hope Under One Roof's champions can convince your readers that the organization is still worthy of their support. Because personally, I don't want to bash Under One Roof. And I don't want to diminish anyone's efforts to raise money to support people with AIDS. But I do have serious concerns. Because our community's good will, and our dedicated volunteers, are far too valuable to squander.

I hope Under One Roof's Board will embrace this opportunity to discuss the cold hard facts. I hope their numbers will convince me that I'm full of crap. And I hope the news is better than I think. Because then, thousands of people with AIDS can breathe a sigh of relief. And I won't have to rant and rave.

Kevin P. Murphy
San Francisco

Snaky thoughts

Saint Patrick's Day commemorates the driving the "snakes" out of Ireland. "Snake" can refer to a slithering reptile, or a lying sneaky human. Before Saint Patrick brought in the Catholic religion, the Druid religion reigned supreme. If someone did not know any better, and wanted their religion in the people's minds, they may have told people the Druid religion was full of snakes.

The Catholic religion promised Heaven in one life of worship. The Druid religion taught Heaven could be achieved after reincarnating back to Earth, numerous times, until a degree of true knowledge was attained in your eternal mind, which helps you to be happier. Between incarnations, we stay in the Astral planes, which is at a higher unseen frequency and of less dense matter. Heaven is beyond the Astral planes. Nicer people get to live in the better Astral planes.

The Catholic religion told people you could be forgiven for bad deeds by praying. The Druid religion held you can make up for past wrongs, by doing good deeds and by helping those you have hurt, either now or in a future life, or you may suffer sicknesses in future life incarnations for hurting others during your one eternal life.

The Druid religion used a tree to explain God to people. We are the acorns and young trees, and God is the oldest, largest, wisest tree of us all, from which we all sprouted. They also taught that Nature is a part of our being, our mind extends to nature, and nature becomes a part of our mind, and you can tune in to and mentally feel the beauty of nature.

With the help of the Roman army, the Roman Catholic religion became more popular; and the truth and knowledge of the Druid religion, and the wise men who were mistakenly called snakes, left Ireland.

Sue Saintmarie
Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

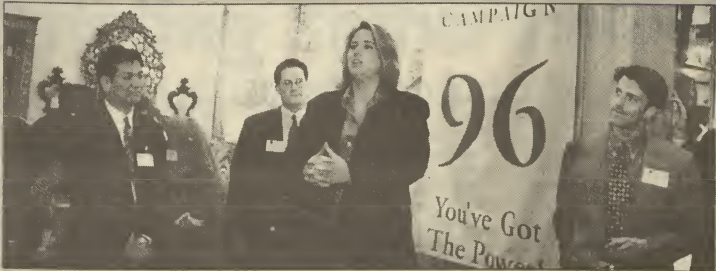


Photo: Rick Gerhart

Bono Bueno

Newly transplanted San Franciscan Chastity Bono talks at a March 13 Human Rights Campaign Fund reception for dinner captains for the group's upcoming annual dinner June 15. Tables are still available. For more information call 415/647-2386.

Bottoming Bob

With the GOP nomination now safely under his belt, Senator **Bob Dole's** next big hurdle is his choice for the bottom spot on the party ticket. While Dole's people claim there is no current short list, everyone is talking about who will be No. 2.

It is no secret that Dole himself would take retired General **Colin Powell** in a minute, but Powell was adamant this week that he will not bow to "Republican pressure" and accept such a post. Indeed, Powell has reportedly personally told Dole within the past two weeks that he is serious about not being on the ticket and asked Dole to stop the "Powell for vice president" talk coming from the Dole camp. (Powell was said to have been quite annoyed when the Kansas senator added fuel to the fire last week when he told CBS that Powell "has been a soldier all his life. I believe if someone went to him, laid out the case ... he would suit up again.")

Those seriously on the Dole veep list are popular Michigan Governor **John Engler** (who might have hurt his own chances last week when he told reporters he never served in the armed services because of a "weight problem"), former Defense Secretary and Wyoming Congressman **Dick Cheney**, Ohio Governor **George Voinovich**, Florida Senator **Connie Mack**, Wisconsin Governor **Tommy Thompson** (a long shot), and former South Carolina Governor **Carroll Campbell** (also a long shot). Dole clearly needs a governor from a state with a large number of electoral votes.

The East Coast press would have us believe that New Jersey Governor **Christine Todd Whitman** is on the veep list, but she is a first-term governor and, though popular within the party, is pro-choice. A pro-choice woman? Hardly the candidate Dole needs to court those **Pat Buchanan** voters. Look for a possible Dole-Engler or Dole-Cheney ticket to emerge from the San Diego Republican convention.

It's My Party

From the day he entered the presidential race, Buchanan has always left the door open for a third-party run. Now that Dole has the GOP nomination sewed up, Buchanan and his supporters are very definitely thinking of such an effort in November.

One of the former TV commentator's top advisers, **Greg Mueller**, said last week that a "majority of Pat's supporters" would like to see a third-party candidate in the November race — and he wasn't talking about **Ross Perot**. While Buchanan says he wants to do nothing to help **Bill Clinton** win re-election, after next week's California primary, he intends to send letters to some 125,000 supporters asking if he

should endorse Dole, drop out, or run in November on his own.

Buchanan is bitter toward the senate majority leader, and complains loud and long that Dole has run a "vicious" campaign against him. The rumor within GOP circles has it that Dole's people want Buchanan quieted at the August convention, with no repeat of his 1992 anti-everything oration, which of course only infuriates pugnacious Pat all the more.

Commentary

However, the savvy Dole knows he needs Buchanan's people, if not Buchanan himself, and is likely to cut an eventual deal with him — perhaps like the one **George Bush** cut with Buchanan in 1992. Clearly Dole cannot ignore Buchanan and his Christian Coalition followers. I expect Buchanan will stay with the GOP, but not until after he has wounded it so badly that Bob Dole cannot win the White House.

Strange Bedfellows

There was Mayor **Willie Brown** at last week's Yes on B (Downtown Ballpark) dinner, introducing Senator **Quentin Kopp** as California's "next state attorney general," and Kopp predicting that the mayor would win a "second term."

Steve Forbes's six-month foray into presidential politics cost him a mere \$30 million; meanwhile, another GOP big spender, **Michael Huffington**, recently announced that he will *not* run for any political office in 1998, making Attorney General **Dan Lungren** rest a bit easier.

Speaking of the A.G. — still being bandied about by some as a Dole veep choice — it seems he has a "name" problem. An AP story last week continued to call him Dan "Lundgren," and the *New York Post* thinks the state AG's name is **Dolph Lundgren** (a Hollywood actor, of sorts). Say, didn't the last vice president named Dan have his own troubles with spelling?

Good news: the influential *San Jose Mercury News* endorsed openly gay **Ken Yeager** for the Assembly nomination in the 23rd District (San Jose area); that makes it all the more important that readers in that area get out next Tuesday and vote for Democrat Yeager.

Big surprise dept.: Offer a highly qualified, openly gay candidate for Superior Court (**Kevin McCarthy**), who happens to be a registered Democrat, against a Wilson-appointed hack from Marin, who happens to be a white, straight Republican, and guess who the mostly gay and lesbian Log Cabin GOP Club supports? Yes, of course, the straight appointee, merely because he is a

Republican. Party politics win with the Log Cabinites every time, folks. No one pulls the wool over their eyes; they do it themselves — with glee.

Anyone interested in fair representation by qualified judges must vote for **Kevin McCarthy** for Superior Court next Tuesday.

Municipal Court Judge candidate **Kay Tsien** picked up the endorsements of both the *Bay Guardian* and the *Chronicle* this week.

West Hollywood's openly gay mayor, **John Heilman**, is being talked about for higher office in the LA area.

In the Big Apple, the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (IGLO) was again barred from the St. Patrick's Parade there, but **Gerry Adams**, the president of Sinn Fein, was welcomed and treated like a hero. Go figure.

A digit for Dianne: Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, while speaking to a group of California city officials last week in D.C., asking for their help in fighting a repeal of the state's ban on assault weapons, was the recipient of a vulgar gesture from attending Simi Valley Councilwoman **Sandi Webb**. Webb looked at the senator, raised her fist with the middle digit extended, and then stormed out of the meeting. Others at the meeting were furious at the pistol-toting councilwoman, but Feinstein laughed it off, commenting, "I've been flipped off by bigger birds." And no doubt other dodos as well.

For those who have asked, here are my recommendations for next Tuesday's Democratic primary. First, I'm following the advice of a reader who suggests we not vote in the presidential contest — low numbers there *might* catch Bill Clinton's attention.

Then I suggest a vote for state Senate (Third District), **Angela Alioto**; state Assembly, (13th District), **Carole Migden**; state Assembly (12th District), **Kevin Shelley**; Superior Court (seat 11), **Kevin McCarthy**; and Superior Court (seat 7), **Lillian Sing**.

San Francisco County Democratic Committee (12th District): **Byron McQuarters**, **T.J. Anthony**, **Connie O'Connor**, **Tony Kilroy**, **Leanna Dawydiak**, **Arlo Smith**, **Alexa Smith** and **Eric Mar**.

San Francisco County Democratic Committee (13th District): **Greg Day**, **Natalie Berg**, **John Shanley**, **Warren Hinckle**, **Martha Knutzen**, **Doug Comstock**, **Sue Bierman**, **Leslie Katz**, **Rick Hauptman** and **Tony Leone**.

State Assembly (23rd District-San Jose): **Ken Yeager**.

SF propositions: Yes on A and B. State propositions: Yes on 194, 195 and 196; no on 192, 193, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201 and 202.

And on Tuesday, March 26, vote as you please, but *please* vote. ▼



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VOTE MARCH 26th!

Noe Place Like Home

by Beth Elliott

Running With a Theme Dept.: The Texas theme continues with a tip o' the hat to Molly "If you don't vote, you can't bitch" Ivins. She reminded fellow Texans, on primary eve, that even if you're disgusted with the campaign process, you should find a way to vote against the religious right because one of their goals is to outlaw beer. (Outlaw beer? Better get a rope.)

But I digress. Events of late have brought me back more frequently to one of my very favorite places, Noe Valley. I first discovered — and fell in love with — Noe Valley around the time refugees from the Haight-Ashbury were settling there. I've never lived in Noe Valley proper, just on the edges: the foot of Bernal Heights, in my early twenties; just over the hill in Dolores Heights (in a cozy cliff-top flat with a view of Twin Peaks where Cumberland Street dead ends, ergo "The Land of

Cumber") before nesting with a lover in Oakland. And yet, Noe Valley was the place that felt like my neighborhood — the scene of happy times, and bittersweet times through which I still felt nurtured, my deep and romantic feelings honored, beneath the breasts of Twin Peaks.

Commentary

By my early twenties, I dreamt of settling into a Noe Valley Victorian with a lover. We'd shop at 24th Street Real Foods, burn incense and take scented baths, brush each other's long hair, and dress for bed in floral-print flannel nightgowns we'd get each other out of before falling asleep. The elements of the domestic bliss recipe have changed and evolved, yet I still feel at home in (a less laid-back now) Noe Valley.

Unrealized Dream

This dream has never materialized. Economics didn't help: the Mary Ann Singleton era mass migration to The City (spawning the property speculation that birthed Prop. 13) put that dream out of reach despite my having the appropriate girlfriend. When I did buy a house with a lover, it was in Oakland, on a hill above Lake Merritt — and I have no regrets about living at the lake, close to magical places in the Oakland hills.

Not long ago, I did have a brief but sweet affair with a woman living in Noe Valley — until she tried to run back into the closet, fearful of the dyke stereotype though she

would make Martha Stewart look butch. Before I moved to Oakland, the great unrequited infatuation of my life was with a Noe Valley woman, a fifth-generation San Franciscan. This means I missed out on the dream scenario not only by economics but geography, through a horizontal relationship to the landscape: falling first in love, then flat on my face.

Some said my infatuation was hopeless, the chances all in my mind. Others could swear she was at least thinking about it. All I know is she could be very affectionate but keep me at arm's length till I decided I was breaking my own heart and walked away — at which time she'd reach out to draw me back in. I knew she wanted kids, and I eventually accepted

life of savoring those times when the paths of two special individuals briefly cross, while staying focused on a solitary life. I've been there, and those affairs can indeed be exquisitely special.

Still, I knew I'm not made for that as a steady diet. And, hiking near Shasta last fall, I'd been overwhelmed with a feeling that flowing with the tao of lesbian romance and passion was one thing that had brought me to the threshold of a new round of growth and insights. It's that postmodern French feminist thing of knowledge through the body dovetailing nicely with hippie romantic sensibilities (Venus conjunct Sun in Sagittarius) of lesbian intimacy's transformative properties.

As for detachment now that

"Noe Valley was the place that felt like my neighborhood — the scene of happy and bittersweet times through which I still felt nurtured, my deep and romantic feelings honored, beneath the breasts of Twin Peaks."

that she didn't have what it took to be out as a lesbian in her family; I can live with that. Still, when a longtime teammate regularly fails to remember your birthday until her first child is born the day after and she apologizes for trying but missing...sigh!

One might think going back to Noe Valley after living in Oakland all these years would be too sadly wistful to bear. Au contraire. I drive over and do my scenic/aerobic Noe walk from time to time, and it's still fun. I love places where a city sits gently on the earth, streets splitting or pausing to accommodate her contours. It's characteristically Bay Area: city and suburb nestling the rural (so enough with the overpopulation, already!). Growing up here taught me to follow the call of the Earth to walk where she inspires me.

Contemplating Romance

As for the romance — that was on my mind in contemplative walks this past winter. I know I'm damned hard to shop for, girlfriend-wise, and I value intuitive insights on how better to "be in the world but not of it." One suggestion for greater (spiritual) detachment that came through was a

I'm getting major dating attention. I still have that "survivor" crap to keep part of me watching myself dive into the pool of love. I refuse to adopt a "survivor" identity, though acknowledging intimacy involves eventually sharing even the teeth-curling episodes of personal history you're, like, way over. (Worse yet, my "survivor" experience isn't one of the officially approved teeth-curlers lesbians are supposed to understand and validate.) No matter how intense the chemistry, how profound the connection, I never feel I'm out of the woods until that new woman has enough experience of me to form a context for old factual data of questionable relevance to daily life. Zen detachment and long-range perspective aren't a problem.

As for how to feel when Noe Valley calls me back, I doubt it matters how my dreams turned out. Our loving relationship continues, whether as bliss of the moment or reflection on past nurturing. I lived here, enjoyed and learned from the happy and bittersweet times, and kept growing and evolving. How can I not enjoy the beauty and be centered in bliss here? ▼



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Saluting Catherine Parker

American Legion Post 448's New Vice Commander

by Hakeem Oseni II

The American Legion, a national organization of retired military personnel, has been dominated by straight men since its founding in 1919. But its face is changing, as exemplified by Catherine Parker, the lesbian who recently became the 3rd Vice Commander of the Legion's Alexander Hamilton Post 448.

Parker, who was elected to the position in December, is quick to point out that her Legion chapter is unique. "The Alexander Hamilton post is one small post in San Francisco, with a diverse population of veterans: gay, straight, transgendered, and bisexual," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*. On the other hand, she said, "The Ameri-

ing to meet that diverse population.

"We are trying to bring in more groups from different ethnic backgrounds, women, and people of color," she said. "I'm the first female Vice Commander that they've had at this post."

"We are also working towards the removal of the Department of Defense's 'don't ask, don't tell' policy."

And, she added, the process is paying off.

"I think the American Legion is beginning to look at us [homosexuals] as people, rather than labels," she said.

Guaranteed Burial

Some might wonder, as many still do with the military itself, why Hardman or the other gay

and we want to make sure our government does not forget that.

Parker, who is a full-time graduate student in healthcare management at Golden Gate University, is naturally also interested in veterans' health. And like so many others, she is worried about the effect of current and proposed budget cuts on the healthcare system, which already is not responsive to the needs of veterans.

"People go into the military ex-

pecting they will be medically cared for because they served their country," she said, "but the only guarantee they have is that they will be buried in a military cemetery."

"Healthcare for veterans is being cut, so that population of ex-military personnel are not getting the full range of benefits they were promised," she said, identifying the closure of Letterman Hospital in the Presidio as one

budget-conscious measure with unfortunate consequences for some San Francisco Vietnam-era servicemembers. "Veterans with war injuries, like Agent Orange, now have to go to clinics in the East Bay to see a doctor," she said.

Post-Vietnam veterans have even fewer options for medical care. "You have to be rock bottom in order to apply for VA care," she said.

Continued on page 32



Photo: Jane Philomeni Celand

Catherine Parker: "The American Legion is basically white middle-class American men who are veterans."

can Legion is basically white middle class American men who are veterans.

"It was really difficult for this American Legion post to come into creation," she acknowledged. "It had to break a few barriers." Historian Paul Hardman first approached the American Legion with the idea of creating the post with an atypically diverse population in the late 1960s. "Since that time," according to Parker, "the American Legion has been evol-

Hamilton post members would even want to affiliate themselves with the American Legion in the face of its homophobia. Parker, however, said the power to change comes from a grouping of people rather than individuals standing alone, and she had much praise for the national organization's efforts to help veterans and their families facing social change.

"We share a commonality," she said, "in that we've served our government in the time of need

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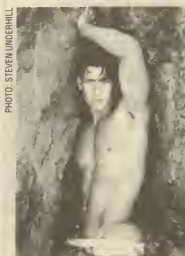
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Don't Miss 'Don't Look' Video

by Al Kielwasser

I feel like we're opening up the possibilities of changing what the next generations of kids are taught in school." So says Academy Award-winner Debra Chasoff, most modestly, about her latest project, "Don't Look the Other Way."

The new documentary tackles the subject of homophobia in elementary school, and is intended to encourage and educate parents and teachers as they integrate fair and factual information into the classrooms. This film, Chasoff says, "demystifies what it means to do anti-bias education that is inclusive of lesbian and gay people."

Chasoff's effort has already earned praise in a review for *The Progressive* (March 1996). The magazine noted: "Her new project is aimed at preventing homophobia among elementary-school stu-

dents. It's a huge undertaking, but the mixture of talent and compassion Chasoff brings to her work makes her the right person for the job."

Don't Look the Other Way is part of an educational media series "Respect for All." To date, the series includes the new documentary, a teacher's resource guide, and three additional 15-minute videos. These video shorts — *My Family Is Special*, *Don't Call Me That*, and *Shattering Stereotypes* — are specifically targeted to school-age children, for use in the elementary classroom.

For further information, contact: Women's Educational Media, tel. 415-641-4616, e-mail wemhe@aol.com.

Another Classy Video

"A Safe Place For Questions" is a new video and resource guide developed by Support Services for Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Youth, a

program of the San Francisco Unified School District. The package is intended for "educators who are interested in creating a safe school environment for sexual minority youth."

The resource guide is comprehensive in scope, covering everything from counseling issues to curriculum development. The video, suitable for classroom use, features students who describe the program's benefits.

For more information, contact: Support Services for GLB Youth, School Health Programs Dept. - SFUSD, 1512 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco CA 94115, tel. 415-749-3400, fax 415-749-3420.

A Compromising Position

In a March 10 column (written for the *Salt Lake Tribune*, syndicated by Knight-Ridder/Tribune Business News), DeAnn Evans asks: "When a controversial issue polarizes a community, do journalists have an obligation to do more than just report the news?" It's a good question.

Evans, a former newspaper editor, is now a communications professor at the University of Utah. In her column, she investigates several of the key concerns surrounding "public or civic journalism" projects, which take as their goal not simply the "objective" reporting of news, but an active elevation of community discourse. Such concerns, Evans says, were recently foregrounded "in the wake of the divisive issue concerning gay-lesbian clubs at local schools."

Last month, the Salt Lake City School Board voted to ban all extracurricular clubs, in order to prevent the formation of a single group — a "Gay-Straight Alliance." Since then, news coverage of the board's decision, and its ongoing aftermath, has been relatively extensive.

To her credit, Evans attempts to make some sense of this media morass. She proposes, "Let's see how a public journalism project at a local newspaper or TV station might work in the gay-lesbian club debate, which has disheartened many with the intractability of both sides."

The "project's" first phase, as described by Evans, would be the most obvious. In the midst of any "robust debate," the journalist's role is "to report the arguments."

equal — and the press is under no obligation to treat them otherwise. In failing to account for this basic point, Evans demonstrates a common, yet subtle form of defamation, defined by media activists Craig Davidson and Michael Valenti as "deference to homophobia."

According to Davidson and Valenti, "deference to the lesbian and gay prejudice of others ... happens frequently among 'good liberals' who claim to tolerate, support, and even like lesbians and gays." In contrast to other forms of prejudice or bigotry, homophobic "opinions" are more often treated as "fair expression," and those who hold such opinions are more frequently given "the benefit of the doubt."

As he accepted the 1986 Nobel

"Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim."

In the second phase, however, "the media would facilitate a more in-depth study that would be solution-oriented. The public would be polled and focus groups might be conducted by media organizations," Evans suggests, "all with an eye to finding common ground." Then, "solutions proposed by citizens and experts would be reported, and the media would reinvent public comment."

Finally, in the last phase, the media would "follow the proposed solutions to the institutions that can do something about the matter — the legislature, local governments, the federal government, etc."

"One key to such a project is to treat each person as a citizen with equal standing," Evans says. "The media should not try to pit one side against another, but should stress respectful speech and listening."

On its surface, Evans's conclusion appears reasonable enough. However, from the perspective of a queer or questioning youth, it could seem rather trite, even patronizing.

The Aristotelian virtue of compromise is a poor remedy for bigotry. What common ground might reasonably be found with anyone willing to "negotiate" homosexuality? There can be no compromise with homophobia. Queers are not a rebuttable proposition.

Homophobia is not the "opposite" of homosexuality, but merely the irrational hatred of it. As such, the two "sides" are not morally

Peace Prize, Elie Wiesel had this to say: "Take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim." It's a good answer.


Send feedback to: DeAnn Evans, Assistant Professor, Communications Department, University of Utah, 80 Union, Salt Lake City UT 84112, tel. 801-581-7200; copy your comments to the *Tribune*, Box 867, Salt Lake City UT 84110, fax 801-521-9418, e-mail. the.editors@sltrib.com.

The homophobic resolution that banned all nonacademic clubs — rather than allow a single gay one — passed by a 4-3 vote of the Board of (Mis)Education. To urge the board to reconsider, contact: Mary Jo Rasmussen, President, Salt Lake City Board of Education, Salt Lake City School District, 440 E. 100 S. Salt Lake City UT 84111-1898, tel. 801-578-8559; copy your correspondence to the Utah Human Rights Coalition, P.O. Box 521242, Salt Lake City UT 84152-1242.

To report any defamatory or affirmative media coverage, call the 24-hour "MediaAlert Hotline" (415-861-4588), or write to: Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103, tel. 415-861-2244, fax 415-861-4893, e-mail glaad@glaad.org, URL <http://www.cnet.com/gayrek/glaad.html>.



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SAN FRANCISCO'S CHOICE FOR SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Four months ago, Pete Wilson appointed a resident of Marin County to represent you on the San Francisco Superior Court. On March 26, we can replace Wilson's choice with a real San Franciscan, Kevin McCarthy.

In the thirteen years since George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson have been governors of this State, not one openly Lesbian or Gay man has been appointed to the bench on any level, anywhere in California. Our community has been denied access to the judiciary due to bigotry. Of the 1,554 judges in California, only four are openly Lesbian or Gay.

Currently, twenty of the twenty-nine judges on the San Francisco Superior Court have been appointed by George Deukmejian or Pete Wilson. On Tuesday, March 26, we will finally have the opportunity to decide for ourselves who should represent us on the Superior Court.

Kevin McCarthy is an openly Gay man, an experienced trial attorney, and adjunct law professor. Whether in the courtroom or in the classroom, he has spent his entire career confronting the real problems which judges are called upon to resolve.

WE MUST VOTE IN THIS ELECTION. For the first time ever, California's primary election is being held in March instead of June. Observers are predicting a low voter turnout of Democrats, and a high voter turnout of Republicans. Our community must vote in large numbers, or we will lose the opportunity to replace Pete Wilson's appointee with a highly qualified member of our own community.

The choice between Kevin McCarthy and his opponent Doug Moore is clear. Compare the facts below, and decide for yourself.

COMPARE THE TWO CANDIDATES

KEVIN McCARTHY

Endorsed by the San Francisco Democratic Party

A senior public defender with over seventy jury trials

Has lectured to attorneys on such topics as "Defending Battered Women"

An adjunct law professor at Hastings who teaches law students how to try cases

Board of Directors, Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom, the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association

San Francisco homeowner with a record of community involvement including serving on the Citizens' Advisory Committee on Transportation and volunteer attorney with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Supported by openly Lesbian and Gay judges Donna Hitchens and Herb Donaldson, and by Presiding Justice Tony Kline, former Supreme Court Justice Joseph Grodin, and Judge Ellen Chaitin

DOUG MOORE

Endorsed by the San Francisco Republican Party

An insurance defense attorney appointed to the bench by Pete Wilson just four months ago

Has lectured to attorneys on such topics as "Policy Avoidance in Civil Rights Litigation"

Rear admiral in the Naval Reserve

Board of Directors, Insurance Defense Research Institute

Marin County homeowner and resident for the last twenty years. He registered to vote in San Francisco four months ago, the day he was sworn into office

Supported by eighteen Superior Court judges who themselves were appointed by Wilson or Deukmejian to the San Francisco Superior Court



WE ENDORSE KEVIN McCARTHY:

Former Supreme Court Justice Joseph Grodin
Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal J. Anthony Kline
Justice, Court of Appeal John T. Racanelli (Ret.)
Superior Court Judges Michael Ballachey, Stanley Golde, Donna Hitchens
Municipal Court Judges Carol Brosnahan, Ellen Chaitin,
Julie Conger, Herbert Donaldson, Ron Greenberg, Jennie Rhine

Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi
Senator Milton Marks

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Photo: Rick Gerhart

The Barbie Beautiful

Sonny Bono (a.k.a. Margo St. James, center) congratulated the winners of the March 19 Barbie Drag contest. Miles Bainbridge (left) won for highest heels; little Denali Toves (center) for shiniest dress; and Barbie Complex (right) for best overall Barbie. The event was a fundraiser for Kay Tsenin and her race for SF Municipal Court judge.

Ethics Commissioner Melbostad Looks Forward to His New Job

by Mary Ann Swissler

Openly gay San Francisco attorney Paul Melbostad was sworn in Monday, March 18 as an ethics commissioner by District Attorney Terence Hallinan, and has already formed some very clear ideas about his post over the next four years.

The Ethics Commission has jurisdiction over city officials, city elections, and local initiatives. Melbostad told the B.A.R. that he was appointed to the five-member commission partly because of his past unsuccessful efforts to get the D.A.'s office to prosecute elected officials' ethics code violations.

Within the next month, he said, his goal will be to improve procedures for reporting code violations, and the actual enforcement process through both the City and the District Attorneys' offices.

Secondly, Melbostad told the B.A.R., he wants this Ethics Commission to reduce the influence of campaign contributions and paid lobbyists in the process of enacting legislation.

"I can say honestly that I don't have any preconceived agenda in taking office," he said, but with elections scheduled for this November, "it is especially important to see that there are regulations enacted which will accomplish the purpose for which the ethics laws



Photo: Jane Philomen Cleland

Paul Melbostad, DA Terence Hallinan and Melbostad's proud mom.

were enacted."

While he is impressed that openly gay and lesbian appointees have made it into the ranks of Mayor Brown's commission appointees, Melbostad added that a better balance should be struck between Jordan and Achtenberg supporters.

"He has not appointed a single person who was a supporter of Roberta Achtenberg," said Melbostad, who actively backed the lesbian candidate in last year's mayoral race, "whereas he has appointed people who were supporters of Frank Jordan." Melbostad was appointed to the commission by District Attorney Terence Hallinan.

The outspoken attorney said he believed the reason for the disparity was that, in general, Jordan appointees have greater financial resources at their disposal. "With

him," he concluded, "money talks." He made a similar speech at last year's Milk/Moscone Memorial Candlelight March, in which he lambasted Brown and Supervisor Carole Migden and their considerable war chests.

The mayor was out of town and could not be reached for comment. However, mayoral press aide P.J. Johnston responded that Brown has made his appointments based on whether or not they would advance his diversity goals.

"I think the mayor has tried to be fair," Johnston told the B.A.R. "I don't think he specifically looked at who people supported in the election."

Melbostad is a partner in the law firm of Goldstein, Gellman, Melbostad & Gibson, and was a Permit Appeals Board Commissioner from 1988 to 1992. ▼

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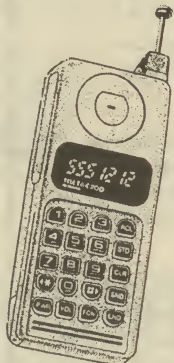
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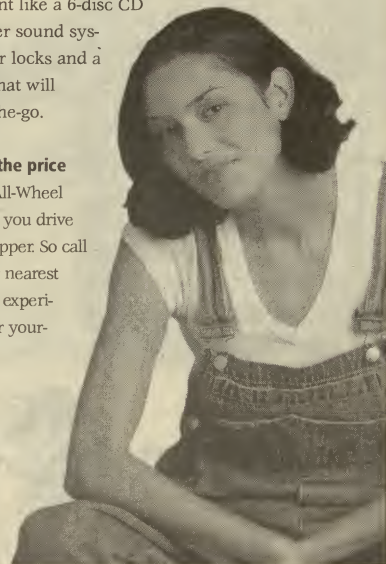
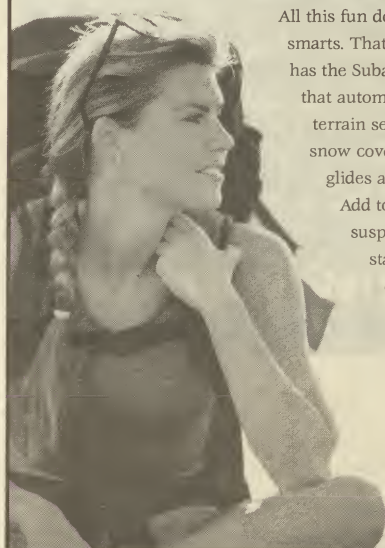
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Carole Migden Heads for Sacramento

by Mary Ann Swissler

With the March 26 special election less than a week away, and with no other contenders duking it out for the 13th State Assembly District seat, San Francisco Supervisor Carole Migden is clearly going to walk away with the election, and enter the world of heavyweight policy working.

Fortunately for gays and lesbians — and other groups threatened by the Republicans' version of ethnic cleansing — Migden's place in the state legislature will help ensure progressive senti-

ments get heard. It's not going to be easy ("I'll be like the new kid in my class," she recently told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "coming in the middle of the school year.") but she is determined. She promises to have the political tools to survive at least the next five months in the Assembly, until she comes up for re-election in November, but with the block granting of many federally-controlled programs looming on the horizon the biggest question is whether her wily negotiating skills are as good as her intentions.

Judging from her past performance, they are. Even her detrac-

tors admit as much; one longtime lesbian activist derided Migden's "ends-justifies-the-means politics," but then added, "Anybody who didn't want her in the Assembly would be a fool. She got AIDS funding when no one else could. She gets things done, I'll say that about her."

Trailblazer and Mediator

Initially, Migden said her only agenda in Sacramento would be to fill out the five months left in Willie Brown's term, establish relationships and allies among all parties, and keep a box of Kleenex nearby for the times the Republicans shut down the Democrats' legislative efforts. But already she's started to expand on that modest vision.

"I want to be a trailblazer," she told the *B.A.R.*, "and a mediator, and my first order of business is to get to know the legislature. Here [as a supervisor] I work with ten other people. There it's 80. That's a lot of people and personalities."

"I'm going to work hard to get to know the members of the legislature — who they are, where they're from and what drives them — and try to make inroads on a personal level."

And, as befits the former Democratic County Central Committee chair, she plans to "help along Democratic candidates, officeholders as well as those who are up for re-election, who may be in districts where they may be more vulnerable."

"For the naysayers who say, 'I can't tell the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans,' and that all politicians seem



Carole Migden

As for herself, Migden commented she hopes she doesn't get parked in some toothless committee. She said, "If I had my druthers I'm interested in Finance, Ways and Means, Health, or Natural Resources [committees]," but admitted that with a Republican-controlled Assembly she will have to adopt more realistic goals.

And, she said, she can do that — for now. "I believe that in order to be effective," she told the *B.A.R.*, "one has to adopt a long-term strategy."

"If you want to try and achieve everything by tomorrow, you know, you huff and puff, and it doesn't happen, and one gets demoralized by the failure to achieve. If one adopts a long, steady plan that I think is do-able or secure or a little bit easier, then their chances improve along the way."

"And I think that's the responsibility of leadership as I see it, is to see what gains we can make along the way."

San Francisco will give Migden somewhat of a send-off party the day before the election: she and Mayor Brown will perform a huge civil ceremony to unite same-sex couples Monday, March 25 inside the Green Room at the War Memorial Building. Migden wrote the bill that extended the same kind of City Hall "marriage" formerly reserved for heterosexual brides and grooms to those — and all future — gay couples.

At least 130 same-sex couples are scheduled to take part in the ceremony, which has drawn worldwide media interest. ▼

It isn't just the GOP's anti-gay legislation that troubles her, she said; many years of work protecting natural resources have gone through a wholesale slaughter under that party's leadership. "Anything that has any degree of sensitivity or humanity simply fails in committee," she said.

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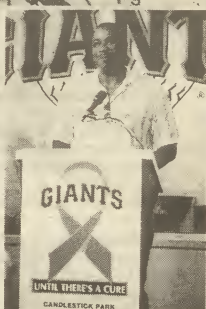


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NATIONAL NEWS

Congress Increases the Heat Under Speed Labs

United Press International

U.S. lawmakers looking to shut down drug factories across the nation introduced legislation Tuesday, March 12 that would increase penalties for making methamphetamine.

The bill, sponsored by a bipartisan group of lawmakers in the House and Senate, calls for the government to regulate pseudoephedrine, common in over-the-counter cold and other medicines, as a possible substitute for another chemical in the manufacture of speed, under the Controlled Substances Act.

It would track the sale of three chemicals used in the drug's production - iodine, red phosphorus, and hydrochloric gas - by requiring purchasers to provide suppliers with their names, addresses, and evidence of a legitimate purpose for the chemical. It also would allow authorities to close down chemical supply houses that provide chemicals used in illegal speed production, after they have been warned and fined for previous sales.

The bill also would increase penalties for the illegal production of methamphetamine; increase the maximum jail sentence for the manufacture or possession of equipment used to make methamphetamines, from four years to 10 years; and would increase sentencing guidelines for possession of larger volumes of chemicals or manufacturing equipment.

Crack of the 90s

Members of the California congressional delegation said their state has been hit hard by the increasing popularity of speed and crack, particularly among young people.

"This dangerous drug will be the crack epidemic of the 1990s unless something is done immediately," said Senator Dianne Feinstein, adding that state hospitals have experienced a 366 percent



Sen. Dianne Feinstein.

increase over the past decade in speed-related emergency room cases.

She said the problem is especially acute in central California, where emergency admissions have risen by "an astronomical 1,742 percent," and births of speed-addicted babies outnumber often those of crack-addicted infants.

Representative Vic Fazio from California said that 95 percent of the nation's supply of methamphetamine comes from secret

manufacturing labs set up by drug gangs, primarily in rural parts of the state. "These labs are all too common," he said.

Fazio said although the state has already restricted access to the chemicals used in the drug's production, manufacturers do not have to go very far to get their supplies.

"Crack manufacturers can still go to other states like Nevada or Oregon to buy the ingredients," he said. "These restrictions have to be made uniform nationwide." ▼

Meth House

Continued from page 1

ning.

"At this point I can't fault those people. They're obviously running a legal and city-sanctioned drug house."

Manning and other residents report theft, harassment, and threats against neighbors by the occupants of the 17th Street house.

Also, according to Manning, repeated calls to the police have not stopped a chemical smell of gas and sulfur that continues to emanate from the site.

"The police ignore us. When we complain they tell us to move," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Neighbors' complaints to police about increasing drug traffic and other nuisance behavior, including loitering and public sexual activity at the site, resulted in a raid of the residence and arrests in August 1995 - but only after three neighbors gave up in frustration, sold their nearby condominiums, and moved out of the neighborhood.

'In Fact, a Drug House'

Perry, an arts administrator who works for Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena, said that he even coordinated meetings from representatives of a variety of city agencies including the Mayor's

Office, police, the City Attorney's office and others, to try to get a unified and timely response to the problem - to no avail.

Although Deputy City Attorney for Code Enforcement Holly Thier said there is no question that the house "is, in fact, a drug house and there have been arrests for methamphetamine" at the site, she told the *Bay Area Reporter* the city had no legal grounds for emergency eviction under health and safety codes.

Thier said health codes do not allow the city to evict on an emergency basis "when there is evidence of drug manufacturing, sale, or possession," but said the city will be going to court to seek a preliminary injunction as part of a "narcotics abatement action" against the absentee owners and residents on April 11.

The city has sent teams of health, building, and safety inspectors to the house, but any con-

ditions that could cause immediate fire or safety evictions were abated, even though code violations remain.

Perry said the site needs to be demolished after the tenants are finally evicted.

The absentee landlords of the property, Edward and Bernice Yap of Waianae, Hawaii, are appealing the neighborhood group's small claims court victory in Superior Court. A hearing on the appeal has been set for May.

Perry told the *Bay Area Reporter* the only practical help neighbors received in abating the condition did not come from city officials, but from across the Bay. An Oakland group called Safe Streets Now provided support and advised the neighborhood group about seeking legal remedies in small claims court.

"I've learned a lot about city government and its lack of effectiveness," he said. ▼

Crystal Get-Together Tonight

The Stop AIDS Project/Q Action forum on Speed Use and HIV will be held tonight (Thursday, March 21) at 7 p.m. at the Women's Building, located at 3543 18th Street, in the Mission.

Moderators, including former and current speed users, will discuss the real physical reasons why meth users are more likely to contract HIV. Audience members will also ask questions of the panel and relate their own concerns.

For more information, or a brochure about crystal use and ways to be safer, call Q Action at (415) 621-7177. ▼

Two Years Later, Polk Street Shooting Remains Unsolved

by Dennis Conkin

Two years have passed since Tony Ray staggered to the doorway of the StarDust Cafe on Polk Street and collapsed from a mortal bullet wound to the heart, after being shot on the street during an altercation.

The March 24, 1994 incident began when Ray, who was sitting at a table in the StarDust with another man, was spotted by his assailant, who knocked on the window and then entered the restaurant.

Homicide inspectors told the *Bay Area Reporter* shortly after the murder that words were exchanged, and then Ray was slapped in the face. There were more heated words — perhaps over a bad debt or some other kind of bad blood between the men, sources claim — and then, police say, Ray and his killer stepped outside.

The suspect punched and slugged Ray, pushed him into a tree planter, pulled out a gun, and fired five or six times in broad daylight.

Despite a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Ray's killer, the homicide case remains open, according to Lieutenant David Robinson of the San Francisco Police Homicide Bureau.

"Cases remain open until they are resolved in some manner. There is no statute of limitations on homicide," Robinson told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Nor is there statute of limitations on community concerns about a killer at large, or a time-limit on the grief experienced by a murder victim's loved ones, according to Supervisor Angela Alioto.

"Unfortunately, that's the way things occur in our society," she said. "It's incredible. It just doesn't make any sense to me."

Alioto held public Board of Supervisors committee hearings into the unsolved homicide in February 1995, and expressed frustration that Ray's killer has never been apprehended.

Despite a primary suspect in the case, and hundreds of hours of police investigation that included at least 60 interviews, police said at the time of the hearing no witnesses had ever provided the kind of positive identification of Ray's killer on which to base an arrest

warrant.

"I have to say it's regrettable; if two years have passed and no one has been apprehended, it seems as if this is going to be one of those terrible unsolved cases," said Supervisor Carole Migden.

Ray's murder is just one of several unsolved gay-related homicide cases that remain officially open, Robinson acknowledged.

And although Robinson says that the first two weeks following a homicide are "very important" in terms of leads and solving the crimes, homicide inspectors continue to track cases and pursue new leads or angles to unsolved murders long after that.

Sometimes, Angel Lopez said, years after a murder police turn up definitive evidence that ties a killer to a crime in ways that lead to arrests and convictions.

"We appreciate the fact that the police did seem to be really working hard — but without firm evidence, it doesn't appear as if his killer will be apprehended," Migden said.

Although the homicide of Tony Ray led to an public hearing by a committee of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, his is not the only unsolved gay-related murder in recent years. Other unsolved homicides of San Francisco gay men include:

Gary Patock — October 27, 1995 Patock, a senior operations manager at the investment brokerage firm of Charles Schwab, was found murdered across the street from his house in an open dog run area in the Glen Park district. Patock died of blunt trauma to the head, according to inspectors. "Neither I nor my partner Inspector Jim Bergstrom believe this was a hate crime, or that he was randomly attacked by someone who did not know him," Inspector Armand Gordon told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Tom Wenger — March 28, 1994 A man digging for recyclable refuse in a garbage dumpster in Myrtle Alley off Polk Street found parts of the surgically dismembered and decapitated body of 25-year-old Wenger in several garbage bags. The case remains open.

John Szymusiak — February 10, 1994 Szymusiak, the 35-year-

old owner of the Castro's Record Rack on 18th Street, was found beaten to death inside a vacant retail property he had leased. Although police declined to discuss motives for Szymusiak's murder, it was believed to be drug-related.

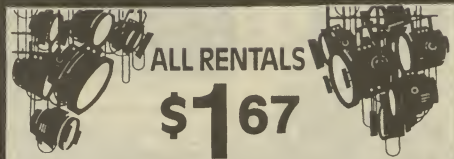
David Powers — February 1993 Powers, a 52-year-old gay architectural preservation specialist who had moved to San Francisco from Salem, Oregon a year and a half earlier, was brutally stabbed to death in his Dolores Street apartment. Police said that Powers was known to frequent the Castro, and although they declined to speculate on the murder motive, they said his house had also been robbed.

Angel Lopez — September 1993 A transsexual prostitute who lived and worked in the Tenderloin, Lopez was found stabbed to death in the street at 1090 Eddy Street. Initial police reports were that Lopez may have been murdered by a customer.

Tony Matthewson — December 26, 1992 Matthewson, a gay man with a history of drug problems, was found murdered in Clementina Alley the day after Christmas 1992. Police told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Matthewson was shot execution-style in the head while in the commission of a sex act. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Good Crowd, Enthusiasm at Gay Community Center Meeting

by Mary Ann Swissler

Over 125 people turned out Thursday, March 14 for the first in a series of town hall meetings to discuss the gay and lesbian community center that will open next spring at Market and Octavia streets.

The crowd at the City College auditorium included Supervisors Barbara Kauffman and Michael Yaki; City Controller Ed Harrington; Public Health Director Sandra Hernandez, M.D., and the center's entire board of directors. Supervisors Tom Ammann and Susan Leal and Mayor Willie Brown were out of town and could not attend.

Supervisor Carole Migden kicked things off by speaking of her enthusiasm for the long-anticipated project. Board member Juanita Owens moderated the evening.

The mood was upbeat and productive throughout, with many people stating the obvious, that the project was long overdue and that it was encouraging to hear a center discussed. Several audience members also discussed specific concerns, such as whether smaller groups would have the opportunity to meet there along with larger and better-funded organizations.

Board members repeated the call for people to get involved in the project and provide ideas and suggestions as it takes shape.

Dean Goodwin, the mayor's gay and lesbian liaison, said, "I think it was a really great effort, and the board certainly was receptive about people's concerns. To



Board member Bob Dadurka discusses potential plans for SF's gay and lesbian community center March 14.

me it seemed like a real honest exchange of information and an opportunity to get folks in the community involved in the process."

Scott Shafer, executive director of The Community Center Pro-

ject, told the B.A.R., "I was very encouraged. There was a lot of enthusiasm for a community center."

The next board of directors meeting will be held in April, and is open to the public. ▼

Lesbian & Gay Parents, Kids Forum Monday

by Mary Ann Swissler

A free forum made up of lesbian and gay parents and their children with the theme "Family Ties" will be held this Monday, March 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Unitarian Center, located at 1187 Franklin Street at Geary Boulevard.

The free panel is sponsored by the Alternative Family Project (AFP), as part of their Family Forums series. Members of Children

of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere (COLAGE) will talk about what it's like having gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered parents. A parent's perspective will be offered by members from the Lesbian and Gay Parent's Association.

"If you have — or are considering — children, this forum might be of special interest to you," said Cheryl Deaner, Project Coordinator of AFP. "As well as being informational, these forums are a

great way to meet others in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community who are considering the same issues as you are," she said.

The next AFP seminar on family issues will be held April 29, "Gender Development in Children," followed by one on May 29, "Winning the Right to Marry." ▼

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"Tsenin has the valuable additional judicial experience as a volunteer pro-tem Municipal Court judge and court appointed arbitrator for the past 10 years.

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"Tsenin is a natural for the 'peoples court.' She's spent most of her 22 years in law working on the exact sorts of cases that will come before her. She runs a neighborhood law office on Clement Street, where most of her clients are paying their legal bills out of very shallow pockets. She talks about nuts-and-bolts issues: scheduling hearings at times convenient to working people; taking cases to settlement conferences early; protecting the existence of municipal court ... as a place where defendants who can't afford a lawyer get a little extra tolerance."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

DeFrank Center's 15th Anniversary Bash Saturday

by Mary Ann Swissler

It doesn't host yoga classes - yet - but during its decade-and-a-half of service to the San Jose lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered communities, the Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center has offered just about everything else.

"There's a reason why we're the largest gay and lesbian center in Northern California," said Executive Director Ralph Serpe.

A 15-year anniversary celebration of the DeFrank Center's exalted status will be held this Sunday, March 24 from 1 to 5 p.m. It is located at 175 Stockton Avenue in San Jose.

"I think we've been planning this celebration for 15 years, to be honest," Serpe told the B.A.R. "It certainly is an extraordinary piece of work for the community to support a center of this size for as long as it has."

The center began in 1981 with a switchboard, hotline, and counseling services. Serpe started there as a volunteer in 1991, then became the program director in 1994, and assumed his current job in 1995. Today, he told the B.A.R., the center's annual budget hovers at around \$300,000, there are six paid staff people and about 250 active volunteers, and between 600 to 1,200 people use it each week.

Serpe said that judging from the attendance of over 500 at last June's open house, staff members expect a huge crowd for this anniversary party. Live entertainment will include pianist Suzanne Dowling, a cappella group Inspiration, and the Silicon Valley



Photo: Rick Gerhart

Over 140 queer groups meet at the DeFrank Center each month.

Gay Men's Chorus.

Elected officials who plan to stop by include San Jose City Councilmembers Frank Fiscalini and Margie Fernandes, and State Assemblymember John Vasconcellos, State Assembly Candidate Ken Yeager and Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Honda.

Something for Everyone

The key to the center's success, according to Serpe, is that it's become extended family for many people. "We're also an alternative to the bars. We're smoke-free and alcohol-free."

In all, there are over 140 queer groups and meetings there each month, for people just coming out or new to the area, youth, and everyone in between.

Their youth programs, including professionally facilitated support groups, dances, and activities, are advertised in nearly every high school newspaper in Santa Clara County.

For the adult crowd, there are 15 support groups that meet at the

center, phone peer counseling program, classes, workshops, weekly gay bingo, games night, karaoke night, video night, and the only sanctioned gay and lesbian bridge club in the world, he said. Members have formed a softball team and basketball team, along with entire bowling and volleyball leagues.

"But we're not all vanilla," he stressed. "We can't be, because we have to appeal to a wide variety of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans community." They've hosted S/M groups, along with many other sexuality workshops.

Serpe said that the Billy DeFrank Center has also attracted attention from outside the Bay Area. The Bisexual Network of the United States, or Bi-Net, will host a conference there May 11.

In the beginning of this year, the center hosted the first-ever networking meeting of lesbian and gay community centers and projects for Northern California. Also in attendance were the LA Community Center and a group from Ashland, Oregon. ▼

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Village People at Napa AIDS Benefit



by Hakeem Oseni II

They're back.

The world-renowned Village People will perform at the Eighth Annual Napa Academy Awards Benefit this Monday, March 25.

The event will be held at Chardonnay Hall at the Napa Fairgrounds, with the televised Academy Awards ceremony shown on a large screen.

There will be a silent auction and dancing, and dozens of Napa Valley's finest wineries and restaurants will offer food and drink.

Tickets are \$50 per person, or \$750 for a table of ten. Proceeds will benefit the Napa Valley AIDS Project and the HIV Network at Queen of the Valley Hospital.

For more information, call Max Miller at (707) 257-7492. ▼

Santa Rosa Priest Goes to Court on Sex Charges

United Press International

A court hearing began Tuesday, March 12 to determine if there is enough evidence to put a former Sonoma County Catholic priest on trial for the alleged sexual molestation of two 13-year-old boys in 1989.

Judge Knoell Owen met with attorneys for about four hours before continuing the preliminary hearing until March 22, to give attorneys more time to gather evidence.

Specifically, defense attorneys representing Father Gary Timmons want more time to locate the alleged victims' school records, which they hope will prove the molestations could not have taken place when alleged.

School officials have thus far been unable to locate the boys' records.

Timmons faces two felony counts of child molestation and is out on \$250,000 bail, Sonoma County District Attorney J. Michael Mullins said Tuesday.

Timmons could also be tried on additional felony molestation charges, Mullins said.

County prosecutors have appealed a judge's ruling banning Timmons's trial on other alleged molestations in the late 1960s, since the criminal statute of limitations had long since expired

when the victims stepped forward with their claims last year.

Michael Meadows, who represents a handful of men who have accused Timmons of molesting them at a summer camp in the late 1960s, has filed a civil suit against the priest, since it is unclear whether Timmons will face the criminal charges.

Meadows and his clients claim Catholic officials suspected the molestations at the Camp St. Michael in Mendocino County and the rectory of St. Eugene's Church in Santa Rosa, but chose to protect Timmons by transferring him from Santa Rosa to Chicago instead of turning him into authorities.

The men are seeking a change in church policy that would make it mandatory for all dioceses in the United States to be informed if a priest is suspected of molesting children, public recognition from the church that the molestations did occur, and monetary compensation for the victims.

A Marin County judge will hear the prosecutors' appeal on the statute of limitations ruling the morning of March 22, and the preliminary hearing involving the 13-year-old boys' charges will be heard by Owen in a Santa Rosa courtroom in the afternoon.

"All the Sonoma County judges disqualified themselves, so

the case was transferred to a Marin County judge," Mullins said of the statute of limitations appeal.

If those cases are allowed to proceed criminally, Mullins said prosecutors would move to consolidate all of the molestation accusations into one comprehensive case. ▼

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AIDS FILE



Photo: Michael Glover

Music Makers and Shakers

On Friday, April 19, 2,000 dancers, more than 20 DJs (13 pictured above) and SF's leading dance mavens will be fighting the good fight against AIDS with "Spin It! DJs Fighting for a Cure." The extravaganza will be at Club Townsend/Pleasuredome, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 177 Townsend St. Tickets are \$8 advance (415/356-8108) and \$10 at the door. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Asian AIDS Project or the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

East Bay Catholics To Host HIV-Specific Service Saturday

by Hakeem Oseni II

Catholic Charities of the East Bay's HIV/AIDS Services will host a community anointing and blessing for the sick and their caregivers Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m.

The service, "All Things Work Together: God's Spirit in All of Us Touched by HIV/AIDS," will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center, located at 2808 Lakeshore Avenue (at Boden Way) in Oakland. The service will be led by Bishop John Cummins of the Diocese of Oakland, who will deliver a homily, and will include reflections by a person living with HIV and a caregiver.

Catholic Charities is the largest provider of human services in Alameda and Contra Counties, providing programs in counseling, employment, training, and education. The group works in partnership with East Bay parishes and

other community-based agencies.

PWAs: Take Counsel

Help is available for people with HIV who find themselves struggling with fear, grief, anger, depression, and anxiety. Visiting Nurses and Hospice's HIV Neuropsychological Assessment and Counseling Program has openings to counsel people who think they may have HIV-associated dementia.

Some of the services offered are short-term outpatient counseling, neuropsychological assessment, informed referrals to community services, and counseling services in English and Spanish. The counseling is conducted in-office, but is available in-home for the homebound.

Nobody is turned away for lack of funds, but all clients must be referred by a service provider.

For more information, patients or service providers

may call Linda Crist at (415) 750-6528 or Stephen Vernon at (415) 750-2307.

Hospice by the Bay Hosts Family Bereavement Program

A free ten-week family bereavement program for children and parents who have experienced a loss through death within the past two years will be held by Hospice by the Bay, beginning Tuesday, April 9. Enrollments are now being accepted.

"The program helps families explore issues of grief, sorrow, anger, pain, and loss in a safe, secure environment," according to Hospice by the Bay Executive Director Constance Borden. "Both parents and children learn coping skills they each need to deal with the loss of a loved one."

Techniques such as arts and crafts, movement, storytelling, music, and relaxation will be presented by trained and experienced facilitators.

The sessions will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at 1540 Market Street near Van Ness.

**For more information call
(415) 626-5900.**

Main Event: Yoga for HIV

The Mindful Body hosts "Yoga for HIV" Mondays at 1:30 p.m. with Darren Main. The first class is free.

"I had quite a few students with HIV in my regular yoga class," Main said. "and when I saw them benefit I decided to start a class specifically addressing HIV and AIDS."

"I believe that AIDS is a disease that is three-fold. It's mental, physical, and spiritual or emotional. Yoga addresses all three areas."

"From the mental perspective it helps to focus the mind in relation to the many stresses associated with the disease. Physically it helps to bolster the immune system, relieve neuropathy, and strengthen the body."

"Many people living with AIDS have been told they are wrong for who they are or what they've done," he told the B.A.R. "Yoga supports them."

Classes are \$12 for drop-in - less for pre-paid - and are held at 2876 California Street at Divisadero every Monday.

**For more information call
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NIH-Assembled Panel:

AIDS Research Needs Overhaul

by UPI Science Writer
Susan Milius

A panel of more than 100 specialists told the government in no uncertain terms Thursday, March 14 the federal AIDS effort has put roadblocks in the way of progress.

The government's Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council within the National Institutes of Health had invited the critique, creating the panel of AIDS researchers, clinicians, drug company representatives and community representatives in 1995. Their report is the first-ever comprehensive review of government-funded AIDS research.

The panel called for an overhaul of the government's AIDS research program, budgeted for \$1.4 billion in fiscal 1996, saying the program needs new researchers, administrative streamlining, and new vigor in certain areas like vaccine development and basic research in the human immune system.

NIH Director Harold Varmus said he "welcomed" the report, saying, "It was clearly time for a review."

"It's kind of astonishing how un-tame [the report] is," said Gary Rose, a lobbyist at the AIDS Action Council in Washington. "They gored a lot of oxes in this report."

Areas of Concern

The NIH has kept an unusually large chunk of research money under its own tight control instead of encouraging ideas from outside investigators, the panel's report said, and AIDS research has suffered for this centralization.

Only 20 percent of AIDS grant money went to projects initiated by outside investigators in 1994—although, in other fields of medical research, such outside research won 50 percent of the grant dollars.

The centralized approach "represents an impediment to progress," said the report, and the 20 percent slice of funds is "simply insufficient."

To get fresh ideas, the panel urged NIH to double its budget to support proposals on unsolicited ideas.

The panel also warned that the government needs to make a special effort to keep AIDS research from becoming an aging club closed to outsiders. "It is very difficult for researchers who are just beginning their independent scientific careers to compete against more established investigators for funding," warned the report.

Research priorities themselves need shifting, said the panel. Vaccine development is "among the highest priorities," said the report. "Yet vaccine research historically has received less funding and attention than other areas of AIDS research."

The panel noted that recent years have brought breakthroughs in studying animal immune systems. "Unfortunately, simple translation of results from the mouse immune system to immune systems of primates may prove to be very misleading," said the report.

"Many of the most capable immunologists have not committed major efforts to AIDS research," lamented the report, and panelists pushed NIH to invigorate this area of science.

The panel also proposed a number of administrative changes,

including putting all the adult clinical trials—now spread widely throughout NIH—into a single network led by researchers outside NIH.

Drug development also needs rethinking, especially who pays for which trials, said the panel.

"NIH has funded clinical studies that could be carried out equally well by pharmaceutical companies that could profit significantly from positive outcomes," the report said.

What Now?

Activist Rose said, "The big problem is [the report] is so wild and woolly—what now?"

"Is the Office of AIDS Research going to say, 'Brilliant job. Now go away?' Is Congress going to say, 'Nice try?'"

AIDS Research Office director William Paul vowed the report would be put to good use.



Dr. William Paul.

"AIDS is a relentless enemy," Paul said. "We cannot afford to lose a moment's time, or to waste a single research dollar." ▼

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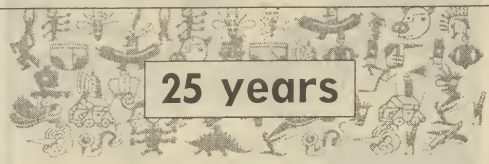
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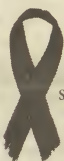
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Could everyone be so wrong?

What If HIV Is *Not* The Real Cause of AIDS?

'Serious charges demand serious answers'—Kirkus Reviews



"HIV causes AIDS"—right? Maybe... maybe not! Most people are completely unaware of this, but more than 200 leading scientists—from Nobel laureates to NIH and Harvard researchers to distinguished members of the National Academy of Sciences—have publicly declared that HIV may not be the real cause of AIDS.

And now, a shocking new book written by world-famous virologist Dr. Peter H. Duesberg presents overwhelming evidence that we've been wrong all along.

Maddening Conclusions

If Dr. Duesberg is right, it means we have wasted more than a decade of valuable time and tens of billions of dollars in research, and that hundreds of thousands of people have needlessly and tragically died.

To admit such a conclusion is almost too much to bear. Yet we are no closer to finding a cure for AIDS than when the epidemic began. Can we honestly afford to ignore the possibility that we are looking for the cure in the wrong place?

Highest Recommendations for this Landmark Book

Dr. Duesberg is a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences and an award-winning NIH researcher. After several years of exhaustive AIDS research, he has written a book that no AIDS victim nor serious student of the War on AIDS can ignore. Those who have read this book are already up in arms over the irrefutable facts it reveals about HIV and AIDS—vital facts that have been conveniently ignored by the government's highly-paid HIV researchers for the past 10 years.

"We know that to err is human, but the HIV/AIDS hypothesis is one hell of a mistake. I say this rather strongly as a warning. Duesberg has been saying it for a long time. Read this book."

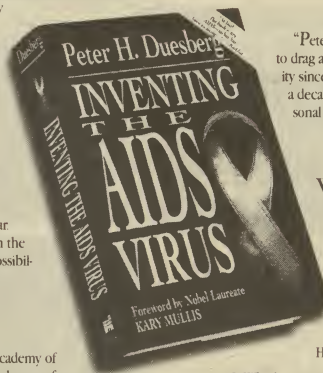
—Dr. Kary B. Mullis, Nobel Prize in Chemistry

"Duesberg is absolutely correct in saying that no one has proven that AIDS is caused by the AIDS virus. And he is absolutely correct that the virus cultured in the laboratory may not be the cause of AIDS."

—Dr. Walter Gilbert, Nobel Prize in Chemistry; Hippocrates

"A well-credentialed scientist's hard-driving attack on the accepted view that AIDS is caused by HIV... The serious charges Duesberg makes deserve serious answers."

—Kirkus Reviews



"Our 13 years of direct experience gravely contradict the conventional dogma that HIV causes AIDS. We agree with Dr. Duesberg.... Reading this book is a matter of life and unnecessary death!"

—Rev. Dr. Michael Ellner, President, Health Education AIDS Liaison

"Peter Duesberg has fought with courage and tenacity to drag a reluctant scientific community back to AIDS sanity since detecting falsehoods in the HIV story more than a decade ago. His efforts have earned him much personal abuse, but may ultimately save countless lives."

—Neville Hodgkinson, former Science Editor, The London Sunday Times

Why We've Been Losing The War On AIDS

Duesberg's book asks all the "tough" questions, such as...

- If HIV causes AIDS, why have thousands of AIDS victims never even been infected with HIV?

- Why does the scientist who discovered HIV now claim it cannot be the sole cause of AIDS?

- Why have more than 10 years of AIDS research—costing tens of billions of dollars—failed to show how (or even if) HIV causes AIDS or attacks the immune system?

- AZT: Is it a cure or a deadly part of the cause?

- What does the evidence point to as the real cause of AIDS?

Questions like these—and many others—are answered in Duesberg's well-documented and highly readable book. The answers will astound you, and probably enrage you... especially when you consider the lives that may have been needlessly lost due to the "dogma" that HIV and only HIV causes AIDS. The preponderance of evidence suggests otherwise. We ignore it at our own peril.

Everyone who's concerned about AIDS simply must read this book to find out why we're still losing the deadly War on AIDS. To buy your copy of *Inventing the AIDS Virus*, visit your local bookstore or call 1-800-955-5493, ext. 30 today. You know what's at stake.

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Controversy Grows Over Human Growth Hormone

by Bob Roehr

When a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel reviewed the application of the human growth hormone Serostim for the treatment of AIDS wasting syndrome March 1, panel members were united in their frustra-

tion with data presented by the company on the product, but split down the middle as to action on approval.

Serono Laboratories is seeking full, unrestricted approval for Serostim at a dosage of 6 mg/day. Vice President for Clinical Research James B. Breitmeyer presented data on two clinical trials

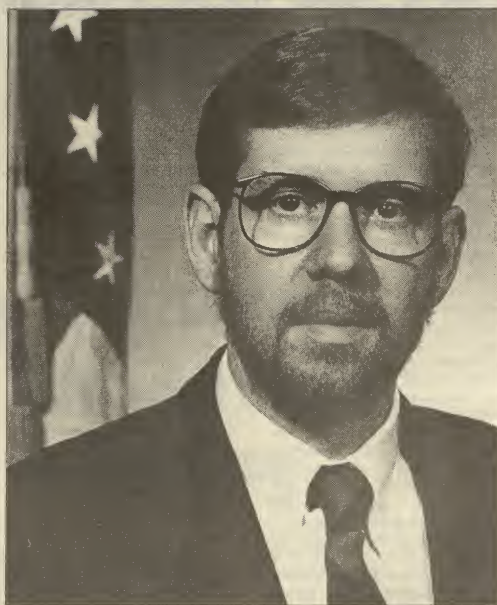
lasting 12 weeks. They "represent an interruption of AIDS wasting" that characterized the patients upon entry to the program.

Patients gained an average of 1.6 kilograms (about 3 pounds), most of it in the first two weeks of the program. Equally important, the weight gain is lean body mass, not fat as is often the case with other therapies. Serostim also appears to help turn existing fat into lean body mass in excess of the total weight gain.

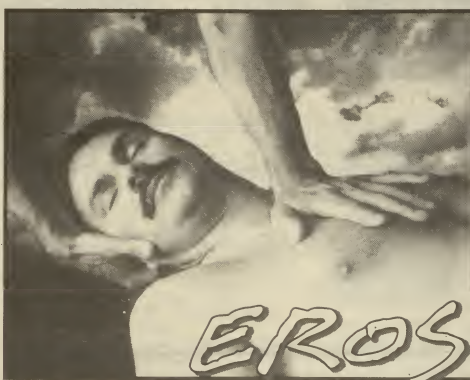
"Individuals who fail to gain weight by week two ... have a strong likelihood of having an undetected opportunistic infection," said Breitmeyer.

The hormone was easily tolerated in the short term. Most side effects dissipated with dosage reduction. Members of the panel were troubled by the short duration of the trial, since use of human growth hormone in other populations, primarily children and the elderly, indicates a strong possibility of long-term negative effects.

Panel adviser Alvin Novick, M.D., professor of biology at Yale University and a former officer of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, wanted an explanation for "the placebo effect" in the double blinded trial. The control group also reversed its weight loss and showed a lesser gain of 0.4 kilograms, even though it never received the hormone. Breitmeyer speculated it was



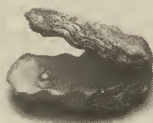
FDA Commissioner David Kessler



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'Start from the Other End'

Henry G. Bone II, M.D., chair of the panel, asked why Serono didn't "try to determine an effective lower dose" than the 6 mg.

Breitmeyer's explanation referred to his "experience base as an oncologist [cancer specialist] - hit the disease hard and reduce the dosage if the patient can't tolerate it."

Bone noted, "Sometimes we endocrinologists start from the other end and don't try to induce toxicity."

FDA clinical review scientist Paul Malozowski, M.D. compared dosage levels of hGH used in treatment of the elderly (5.4 mg/week), children suffering from growth deficiencies (up to 21 mg/week), and the standard proposed for wasting syndrome (42 mg/week). The levels for PWAs were from two to eight times greater than those of the other groups, with no data presented as support.

The safety of Serostim was

questioned by Malozowski, who noted that patient blood levels on entry to the trial showed depressed level of the hormone IGF-1, but by week 12 they had skyrocketed to "three times the mean standard" of a healthy male. Researcher Sheryl Lard, Ph.D. showed that IGF-1 "has the potential to stimulate HIV replication," but that nucleoside analogs can hold replication in check. She suggested hGH not be used except in combination with this class of drugs. There was no answer to the question of how drug resistance might affect these dynamics.

Both researchers remarked that patients receiving the hormone in the two trials experienced more hospitalization and higher rates of death during follow-up than did those on placebo. The later figures may not be statistically significant and could fall within a range explained by probability.

K. Gary Barnette, Ph.D., from the FDA's Division of Pharmaceutical Evaluation, noted that Serono used different formulations of hGH within the trials. They "do not give the same biopharmaceutical effect" in terms of absorption into and availability to

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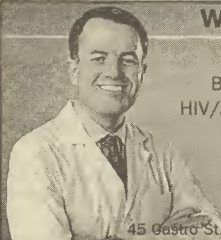
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UCSF Researcher Studies Possible Wasting Factor

by Mike Salinas

A San Francisco professor has announced he intends to study a substance that has been only recently discovered in some cancer patients and implicated in wasting syndrome. Dr. Carl Grunfeld, a UCSF professor in the metabolism department and at Veterans Administration Hospital, will look for the still-unnamed substance in AIDS patients with the extreme weight loss disorder.

Dr. Michael Tisdale was the first to discover the chemical and the role it seems to play in the onset of wasting in cancer patients. Tisdale's study, at Britain's Aston University, was cancer-specific; Grunfeld told the *Bay Area Reporter* his study will try to find evidence of the chemical in the urine of people with AIDS.

"We are going to look for it,

because I feel we owe it to people with AIDS," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. However, he added, "This is highly unlikely to be involved in AIDS. In cancer it only affects certain kinds of tumors."

Despite that assessment – and future research he described as "a very laborious process" – Grunfeld said Tisdale's factor bears studying. He said the chemical is "a glycopeptide – mostly sugar chains with a few amino acids attached," and added, "we don't know if it's a fragment of a larger protein or what."

"It's unlike anything anyone has ever seen. It has no relationship to mammalian peptides; it seems distantly related to a bacterial peptide that we know causes illness."

"There are a lot of unanswered questions."

He acknowledged that re-

searchers have not yet determined if the substance is "a product of the host, a product of the tumor, or a contaminant," but said some of the factor's properties seemed to rule out the contamination theory. "The factor also applied directly to muscle breaks it down directly," he pointed out, "unlike any other substance."

Grunfeld speculated that it may be possible to use an antibody to block the chemical if it is found to be a factor in the onset of AIDS-related wasting.

Current FDA-approved therapies for wasting include Marinol, an artificial marijuana substitute that improves appetite in some – but not all – people with AIDS; and Megace, which induces most people to put on fat instead of the lean muscle mass necessary to fight the syndrome. According to Matthew Sharp of the Healing

Treatments Alternatives, promising but unapproved therapies include Thalidomide, the controversial anti-anxiety drug that causes birth defects in pregnant women; Human Growth Hormone, which now costs the average patient \$150 per day – but is expected to rise to \$75,000 per year upon FDA approval; and anabolic steroids.

Grunfeld said he is not planning to enroll patients into his study of the factor, preferring to use available samples. "At the moment," he said, "we have enough urine stored to do the study." ▼

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Growth

Continued from page 26

the body. Also, "the diluent is not the same as that they are proposing for market."

Anecdotal Evidence

Stacked against the researchers' concern was the powerful personal testimony of physicians and PWAs who have benefited from human growth hormone. The anecdotal stories were of weight gains of 20-25 pounds in a matter of weeks, of rising from sick beds, and even returning to work.

Armin Hoffman, a patient from Pennsylvania, came down "to beseech you to approve this drug." Not only did his weight come back, he said, but his t-cells also quadrupled, all "on half the recommended dosage."

Research and treatment activists were caught in the middle. Tim Horn with the Treatment Action Group (TAG) in New York

entific data.

Nemat Borhani, M.D. with the School of Medicine at the University of California, Davis, harshly chastised Sero: "They have failed to present an adequate job." Yet in the end he was willing to give the drug full approval.

John M. Flack, M.D., from Wake Forest University, said, "The testimony seems to diverge from the research portfolio...it is totally inadequate." He urged them to "send a message back" to the company.

'We Don't Know What We're Doing'

For Alvin Novick, "the dose and regimen were chosen anecdotally." The questions left unanswered – Why 6 mg? Why not every three months or six months? – "reveal to us that we don't know what we are doing." That makes it extremely difficult for physicians to use the drug if approved.

"It is difficult to know what to conclude from the data," said

ed, "The way the committee is split, the agency [FDA] will do whatever it wants."

FDA Commissioner David Kessler may not approve the application or he may try to negotiate accelerated approval with Sero. But the company may try to tough it out to gain full approval. Its corporate culture tends to be more confrontational than some other pharmaceutical companies, and there is political pressure on the FDA to move drugs quickly through the pipeline. ▼

"The advisory panel was clearly torn between the powerful personal testimony and the weak scientific data."

lamented, "By the data alone it wouldn't be approved, but you have all of these wonderful anecdotes."

In his public comments, Horn and TAG urged the panel to grant less than the full approval Sero sought, but "accelerated [conditional] approval on the condition that post-marketing studies are initiated to provide sound, scientific data."

Project Inform's Ben Chang in a written statement urged approval – "despite the weakness of the sponsor's data" and "even less understanding of drug interaction."

Ron Baker, with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, said, "PWAs should have access to this drug." He recommended "accelerated approval," despite "concerns to whether the dose is the proper one" and the high cost of the therapy – possibly \$50,000 a year.

The advisory panel was clearly torn between the powerful personal testimony and the weak sci-

panelist Cathy Critchlow Ph.D. She saw the results as "at best extremely marginal."

Robert Kreisberg, M.D., with the Baptist Health System in Birmingham, Alabama, called the data "statistically significant but not clinically significant." Still, he urged, "We ought not penalize the patient for the inadequacies of the sponsor."

The panel was united in criticizing Sero, but split virtually evenly over the question of full approval. They acknowledged that a subset of patients benefited greatly from hGH but wanted the company to identify that group and explore lower effective dosages and regimens.

They seemed to reach a near unanimous consensus that accelerated approval would be the route to go while some of these questions are answered. However, it is unclear whether that option is available.

The matter now goes from the advisory panel to the FDA for its decision. As Kreisberg conclud-

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Timothy Donovan

May 12, 1951 - March 5, 1996

Beloved soulmate of Phillip Mathis for 22 years. A resident of Lake Elsinore, Calif., for the past three years. Born and raised in South Dakota and lived in SF for 25 years.

Tim is survived by his sister, Michelle, of Florida, and two brothers, Patrick and Dan, of Colorado.

Dear friend - Even though your physical body is not here, I feel your spiritual presence around and in me, protecting and influencing my every action. I miss you so much, but of course you know that. Wait a while; we'll be together again. Love you always! ▼

Iain Gatterall

March 21, 1995

Iain Gatterall died in Guerneville on March 21, 1995. (Gone to join his angels)



Forever in our thoughts - Mum; Norman; brother, Stuart; sisters, Janet, Ann and Gill; nephews, Duncan and Richard; niece, Hannah; and all of Iain's many friends in the U.K. ▼

Steven H. Cohen

Oct. 12, 1946 - Jan. 15, 1995

Steven H. Cohen, R.N., M.S., born in Brooklyn, N.Y., died of AIDS complications at St. Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco. Steven attended Hunter College in N.Y. and earned his bachelor's in 1969. He taught in Spanish Harlem before attending Pace University. There he earned his M.S. in nursing in 1977. Shortly

after that, he moved to San Francisco and worked at various hospitals in the area until his medical retirement from St. Francis in August 1992.

Steven is survived by his parents, Ben and Sylvia Cohen of Sunrise, Fla.; his sister, Joyce Scheinman of Las Vegas, Nev.; his brother, Martin Shelby of Largo, Fla.; and his lover of 11 years, Will Patton of Oakland, Calif. He was lovingly cared for by his friends and family at St. Francis. Steven was entombed in Hollywood, Fla. He is greatly missed. ▼

Carolyn (Casey) Adair

March 9, 1996

Carolyn (Casey) Adair died early Saturday morning, March 9, at age 82. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, John Adair; her three children, Peter, Nancy and Margo; her dog, Zia; and favorite cat, Daisy; all of San Francisco.

Casey married John Adair, an anthropologist, in 1939. She actively supported John on all his books and writings including *The Navajo and Pueblo Silversmiths*.

In 1978, with her eldest daughter, Nancy, Casey edited the book, *Word Is Out*, based on the film produced by her son, Peter. In the 1980s she edited her daughter Margo's book, *Working Inside Out*, and was a contributing editor to the national magazine, *Green Letter*. She was an avid supporter of social justice and had a passion for reading, arguing, gardening, dogs, the arts and, most importantly, baseball.

The family wishes to thank the Kaiser staff, especially Dr. Goard and Victoria Doggit, R.N., and her home caregivers, especially Sheyly Johnstone and George Franklin, who provided her with loving attention. A memorial will be held on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m. in the Goethe Room at the Academy of Science in Golden Gate Park. ▼

Russell E. Dalby

Jan. 27, 1959 - March 9, 1996

Russell died, as he wished, at his home in Berkeley, following several months of battle against lymphoma.

So many thanks are due to his mother, Iris Parker of Mabank, Texas, whose loving care made Russell's last month at home possible.

Born and raised in Dallas, Russell began a 17-year career with AT&T before

moving to San Francisco and the Bay Area in the summer of 1987. For the last three years, his home was in Berkeley, where he became a member of the Calvary Presbyterian Church while continuing to pursue his interests in gardening, travel, music, basketball and bingo at Most Holy Redeemer.

Russell is survived by his mother, Iris; his brother, Steve Lancaster; and Steve's family. He also leaves many friends in Dallas and the Bay Area. Special thanks go to Claire Borkert M.D., everyone at East Bay AIDS Clinic, VNA Hospice and Mark Marion.

Services were held in Dallas and Berkeley, and now, as Candice said to Dr. Pangloss, "We must go and work in the garden." ▼

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Bob Jeffrey Munzer

Dec. 22, 1955 - March 12, 1996

Bob died while he was watching an episode of the *Golden Girls*, a show he

loved. His valiant and intelligent fight of almost 10 years against HIV and AIDS was over. Anyone who knew Bob will never forget his courage, honesty, patience and loyalty.

Bob was born in New York. He moved here in 1976, just in time for the Harvey Milk era.

However, this era was social, too. Bob spent Saturday afternoons with his favorite bartender, the recently deceased Craig Rody, at Kimo's. Saturday nights meant dancing at the End Up.

Bob's interest in the 49ers, California Angels and UCLA teams baffled Manny, Bill and Scott, the three men he was involved with, but it didn't puzzle me. I was his friend for 16 years and roommate for half that time. We talked about sports forever.

Bob had a serious side, too. In 1983, he earned a B.S. in business administration from SFSU. He served as an auditor at Homestake Mining Company.

The real strength of Bob's life came from his parents, Cal and Joan Munzer, who always showed total love and support for their son.

At Bob's request, no services were held. He was cremated on March 14. ▼

Brian Keith Jones

June 25, 1959 - March 2, 1996

Shortly after noon on March 2, Brian was received into Heaven as

God's newest angel. His passing was peaceful, surrounded by friends and family in his own bedroom.

Brian was born in Southern California and moved to San Francisco shortly after graduation from high school. He worked as a florist at Rossi and Rovetti during

that time. When Brian learned of his HIV status, he didn't give up; he went to work. He moved to San Andreas to be with his mother and became one of the founders of the Sierra AIDS Council.

Brian moved back to San Francisco in order to better pursue treatment. Again, he rolled up his sleeves and went to work. He was a client volunteer for Most Holy Redeemer Support Group; he assisted with meals at Coming Home Hospice; worked for Project Open Hand; and assisted at the MHR Rectory.

He is survived by his partner, Billy Blasingame; mother, Esther; brother, Robert; and sister, Christie; as well as numerous aunts and uncles and loyal friends.

A memorial Mass for Brian will be held at Most Holy Redeemer on April 13 at 11 a.m. Those who knew Brian are most welcome to attend. ▼

Michael L. Davis

Nov. 18, 1933 - March 1, 1996

Michael L. Davis died at 12:13 a.m. on Friday, March 1, in the loving care of the Hospice at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco from a brain tumor. He was 62 years old.

Born in Houston, Michael attended Texas A&M and the University of Texas where he studied foreign languages, serving four years in the U.S. Air

Force in Europe. A San Francisco resident since 1960, Michael was employed by the Bank of America for many years and had recently retired from Bechtel Corporation.

Michael was a passionate Francophile, speaking flawless French, frequently visiting Paris where he spent many happy hours. He loved French opera as well as more esoteric types of music and attended the San Francisco Opera and Symphony and Oakland Ballet over many years.

Michael is survived by William Langley, Susan Halvorsen and Ron Graham, who were with him to the end, and by loving family members in Texas.

Michael's death will be mourned by his many loving friends; his life will be celebrated at an event scheduled in the near future. ▼

Correction:

In the March 14 issue, part of the last sentence in Robert M. Killian's obituary was inadvertently left off. The last paragraph reads in toto: "Everyone who knew Bob is invited to celebrate his life on Saturday, March 30, 2-6 p.m., at 4076 17th St., No. 201. Donations to AIDS organizations in lieu of flowers are encouraged. Call Jay at 864-4882 for more information."

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A Landscape Designer, True Creative Artist and Lover of Life, he now embraces his Afterlife with the enthusiasm that he lived among us. He will be remembered and missed by all that had the privilege to encounter him. Peter is survived by his loving Parents, three loving older Brothers and all others that are here to remember him.

A Woodland service has been held at his parent's home. A City Celebration will be held this Sunday, March 24th commencing at 4:00, hosted by Molecules, 433 South Van Ness Avenue between 15th and 16th Streets. Call 621-7519 for additional information.

Peter was the most inspirational and challenging individual in my lifetime. Thank you Peter for allowing me to be a friend to you.

Tom Ammiano Asks Supervisors To Review Coroner's Office

by Dennis Conkin

Supervisor Tom Ammiano announced at an emotional Government Efficiency and Labor Committee meeting last week that he would recommend the San Francisco Board of Supervisors order a fiscal and management review of the San Francisco Medical Examiner/Coroner's office.

Ammiano made the proposal during the March 14 hearing into complaints that coroner's deputies were insensitive to the public, after hearing public testimony that included comments by two gay men whose lovers had died of AIDS-related illnesses.

One of the men complained the coroner's office ignored his lover's wishes that no autopsy be performed. When one was apparently legally required, he said the Medical Examiner's officer failed to conduct a partial autopsy and needlessly mutilated his late lover's brain. According to his testimony, the medical questions about the death concerned a catheter in the late man's chest.

Another man complained of alleged insensitivity and mistreatment by coroner's deputies who discovered medical marijuana in the lover's possessions.

Ammiano also said at the hearing that he wanted city funds allocated so the Medical Examiner's office could implement sensitivity training around cultural and AIDS issues for coroner's deputies and other staffers.

"I'm sure there are good coroner's deputies and that others have fallen down," Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"But there are a lot of unanswered questions about the office, even though some of them are

historical."

Committee members Supervisors Mabel Teng and Michael Yaki also expressed concern about cultural and community sensitivity on the part of the coroner's office.

Deeply Concerned

Medical Examiner Boyd Stephens said at the meeting he was bound by state laws as Medical Examiner, and insisted his of-

Rivero recently successfully sued Stephens's office after it canceled his contract to provide services to the indigent dead.

"I'd love to respond to that, but I can't because of litigation," Stephens said.

Stephens, a forensic pathologist, has also been the subject of recent controversy over a bank account he opened and used to deposit "expert witness" fees that were paid to him as the city's

"There are a lot of unanswered questions about the office."

— Supervisor Tom Ammiano

office is not insensitive or lacking in compassion in the discharge of duties.

"My staff and I are deeply concerned about these allegations mentioned in the press," he said.

"There is no need to put the public through these kind of situations," Yaki said.

Yaki disputed Stephens's contention that written durable power of attorney directives were needed for disposition or release of remains. He said state law provided for oral directives of disposition, and the coroner's office could develop a standard release form to relieve itself of liability in such cases.

Yaki also strongly suggested that Stephens use the lesbian and gay press in a proactive way to educate people with AIDS and their families about legal issues concerning death certificates, autopsies, and the disposition of remains.

Stephens later told the *Bay Area Reporter* the suggestion was the "best thing I heard" at the hearing, and said his office would work to develop a public awareness campaign and an informational pamphlet or brochure about such matters that could be circulated as an insert in the lesbian and gay press.

In addition to the testimony of lovers and relatives, funeral director Francisco Rivero charged that Stephens protected San Francisco Police Department officers accused of misconduct in citizens' deaths.

FDA Clears New CMV Treatment

by Hakeem Oseni II

A new weapon has been cleared to fight a common and disabling AIDS-related opportunistic infection.

Vitrasert, an intraocular (in the eye) implant that delivers ganciclovir directly to the eye for treatment of cytomegalovirus (CMV) retinitis, was granted marketing clearance from the Food and Drug Administration last week.

The implant will be marketed by Chiron Vision of Emeryville and Roche Laboratories.

CMV affects up to 40 percent of PWAs, and can cause blindness if left untreated. A study by the National Eye Institute demonstrated the median time to progression of peripheral CMV retinitis in 14 eyes that received the implant was about eight months—versus 15 days for 16 that received no treatment or deferred treatment.

CMV also affects other organs in many PWAs, and the East Bay firm is conducting further tests to determine if the intraocular implant is an effective drug delivery system in those cases. Preliminary anecdotal reports have been promising. ▼

For more information about Vitrasert, call the National Association of People with AIDS "CMV Hotline" at 1-800-838-9990, or Missy Lowery at Chiron Vision at 1-800-352-1891.

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Read This If You Plan To Take Protease Inhibitors:

A New Generation of Therapy

by Martin Delaney,
Founding Director,
Project Inform
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

The past year has been a time of great progress in the treatment of HIV infection. In the fall of 1995, large long-term studies were concluded in the U.S. and Europe proving the clinical and survival benefits of multi-drug combination therapy. Over the last six months, a watershed series of clinical trials have reported on the striking correlation between viral load levels (the "PCR" test) and disease progression, and the value of these tests in monitoring the effects of antiviral therapy. While an occasional critic still carries on about the failure of outdated AZT monotherapy studies (like "Concorde"), the field of HIV research has reached its broadest-ever consensus on the value of suppressing viral replication as the corner-

stone of treatment for HIV infection.

The most recent news reports have raised an unprecedented flurry of excitement about the new generation of antiviral drugs known as protease inhibitors. Much of the excitement is warranted since the results being reported, although still preliminary, are easily the best ever seen in the treatment of HIV infection. Data from studies of the Abbott protease inhibitor ritonavir (Norvir®) demonstrated a 46% reduction in the death rate over 5 months in people with advanced disease and a similar reduction in the rate of new opportunistic infections. Studies of the Merck drug indinavir (Crixivan®) showed that when that drug was used as part of a 3-drug combination along with AZT and 3TC, 90% of the people in a modest-sized small study saw their levels of virus reduced below the level of detectability, an effect that has now been sustained for 32 weeks (and holding).

Perhaps the most striking aspect of this study was not just the depth of the effect, but its uniformity. Despite the fact that the majority of people in the study were proven resistant to AZT, the combination clearly worked, and in nearly everyone. While the drugs are not without side effects (no drug is), they neatly avoid most of the problems common to older drugs. The Roche (saquinavir) and Abbott (ritonavir) drugs are already in the pharmacies. Due to a potential supply shortage, the Merck drug (indinavir) will be sold only through a single mail-order pharmacy (Statlanders) for the next five months.

A Sobering Conclusion

Yet not all is perfect in this new era of treatment, and there is a real danger that much of this potential might not be realized. A careful look at the data, along with accumulating knowledge about protease resistance (and multi-drug cross-resistance) leads to a sobering conclusion. However potent, these drugs will have to be used with great care and deliberation. If not, the benefit will be short-lived. Resistance can develop rapidly to these drugs if they are used alone, or if they are used too casually.

Resistance is also hastened when dosing is inconsistent, whether by taking less than the full recommended dose, skipping an occasional dose, or perhaps even by poor timing of doses.

In every way, therapy for HIV disease is coming to make the same demands as therapy for tu-

berculosis. In combating TB, physicians wouldn't dream of letting people use single drug regimens, and they are adamant about the need for stable, consistent dosing of the whole combination of drugs prescribed. This is required in TB for the same reason it is required in HIV: because the infectious organism mutates rapidly, making it possibly to overcome the effect of therapy.

To make matters worse in HIV disease, it is now evident that a number of protease inhibitors share the same patterns of viral resistance. In other words, if you become resistant to Merck's indinavir, you can also write off Abbott's ritonavir or vice-versa (and the upcoming Agouron nelfinavir as well).

without regard for a strategy to combat resistance; and

- sloppy dosing (skipping a dose now and then, not paying attention to the timing between doses; all of these will hasten resistance)

It's very likely that greater attention to these issues would have produced better results even from the older generation of drugs.

A Word of Caution

For some people, the availability of the new drugs will be godsend. We have already seen many people over the last year or so go on to have truly remarkable and lasting responses to these drugs. But we have also seen people whose benefit was short-lived. For those who have no other choices,

In short, people may only have one chance with the protease drugs, so they better get it right.

Resistance to Roche's saquinavir doesn't automatically result in resistance to the others, but at least takes a step or two in that direction. In short, people may only have one chance with the protease drugs, so they better get it right. Once resistance sets in, there is no alternative waiting in the wings. And that protease-resistant virus could then be readily passed on sexually to someone else.

It's critical that physicians and patients get a stiff education in the way to treat a rapidly mutating organism. Many of the practices routinely employed in the treatment of HIV disease in the past are dead wrong and must be corrected if people are to have any hope of long-term benefit from protease inhibitors. People might even be better off not using them at all if they cannot commit to using them properly. "Improper use" includes such old habits as:

- reducing doses to combat side effects (it's wiser to stop the drug altogether; they should never be used at reduced doses);

- "tapering up" the dose (starting at a very low dose and gradually increasing it in an effort to improve tolerance; with protease, this will virtually guarantee rapid onset of resistance);

- simply adding protease to whatever else a person is doing,

immediate use of the new drugs is an obvious and easy call. For many others, perhaps people who are stable and have low viral loads, a slight word of caution might be appropriate.

Yes, the drugs are a big improvement, but that doesn't mean everyone should jump on them immediately. By waiting a little longer, it may be possible to use the drugs in the best possible combinations, securing the largest and longest-lasting benefits. A mindless stampede to the protease camp, without use of carefully thought-out medical strategies, could instead lead to the waste of a greatest opportunity.

People have a choice here: move wisely and work with your doctor to establish a careful strategy for using the protease, and in turn get the potential for a large and long-lasting benefit. The alternative is simply to jump in hastily and get a short-term benefit that will quickly be followed by the development of multi-drug cross-resistance to the whole new generation of therapies.

On paper, at least, it's an easy choice to make. Time will tell. ▼

More information about how to best use the new generation of drugs is available in writing or on the Hotline from Project Inform.

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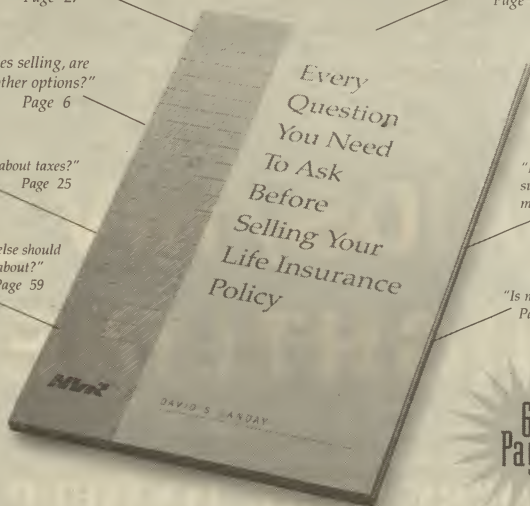
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Magic's Magic

by Michael C. Botkin

Well, it took him two years to do it, but Magic Johnson is playing basketball again. You may recall his attempt to do so some time ago, an effort that finally failed due to the insurmountable worries of his own teammates. At that time he gave up his ambition to play and simply bought a chunk of the team.

However, now he's playing, and the very team members who denied him that privilege then are currently very supportive. It's enough to make you think that sports has got over its AIDSphobia—at least it would be enough if at the same time a major league boxer wasn't canned for testing HIV positive.

The boxer was scheduled to fight in Arizona, which requires boxers to be HIV tested. To his surprise, he tested positive. As a result, the fight was called off, and apparently, his career in boxing is over.

Oh, there are other states where they don't test you, but these are fast changing their rules. New York is currently adding rules requiring HIV tests from all boxers, and pretty soon it will be entirely impossible for a boxer with HIV to compete anywhere in this country.

For the record, it should be stated that none of the X million cases of HIV currently noted was demonstrably caused by boxing. In fact, it's kind of hard to see how it would or could be so transmitted. Yes, the guys bleed, and some of that blood gets splashed about. But it's difficult to figure how this loose, flying blood would get into the other person. The only way I've heard of loose blood infecting someone is if they get a big solid shot of it in their eyes (this very occasionally happens to research workers).

The virus simply isn't all that contagious. A few drops of blood dripped onto an open sore probably wouldn't do the trick. Thus the warning to youth to avoid "blood brotherhood" rituals is a little bit of an overreaction, based more on fear and ignorance than upon sound principles. But when it comes to AIDS, fear and ignorance are often the dominating principle.

Forgive me if I say that fear and ignorance are particularly no-

ticeable in the American sports community. But the sight of AIDS-infected blood just sends virtually everybody into a frightful panic and brings the issue of protecting the uninfected to the fore. Alas, protecting the rights of the PWAs tends to get lost in the shuffle.

Blood sport

Magic apparently learned this early on, and I'm really impressed with the way he stayed on his path to get back to playing. When he failed on his first attempt, he didn't give up; he just changed his tactics. Now, after two years of working with the team as an owner, he's apparently won over his teammates, and the occasional reluctance of other players can be dealt with.

This is partially because, unlike boxing, basketball is much less of a "blood sport." It's true that occasionally a player gets scraped or banged and bleeds a little, but this is fairly rare—unlike boxing, where both players are likely to be bleeding fairly profusely. So the threat of HIV infection seems less likely, enough so that demands that HIVers be banned from the sport come across as irrational.

Of course, demanding that HIVers be banned from boxing is also irrational, but due to the combative nature of the sport, it doesn't seem so.

Magic has learned by now how to deal with the irrational flurries that accompany AIDS. I still feel a little chumped by the way he denied any homosexual activity, the way in which he concealed his HIV status for several months, and the way in which he got a wife—a pregnant wife, no less—just before he was "outed" as an HIVer. But if we assume that his primary goal was to be able to keep playing basketball, it all makes sense.

Goddess knows, it has been a long and troubling path for him. And now that he's back, he's not quite as "magic" as he used to be. Not having played for two years (and having gained some 20 or 30 pounds—no wasting syndrome for Magic yet!) has taken him down a few notches. But he still is a pretty good player and seems to enjoy himself, as do the fans.

So I admire his ability to keep his goal in mind and to track it down efficiently. Of course, some luck had to play into it as well, and



Magic Johnson

Magic is lucky that he didn't have any major opportunistic infections in those two years during which he was maneuvering to get back into the game.

A small smear

Unfortunately, there's little information about how Magic went about winning over his teammates. Maybe it was just the fact that they were working with him, and finally got to the point where they could see him and not just the bloody virus that possesses him.

He had a couple of natural advantages: he's a winning personality and a millionaire, both of which tend to get people to listen to you. And he had a remarkable following, nationally and locally. With all these edges, it's no surprise he was able to finally break through the prejudice.

After all, nobody has to take them. It's just that if you want to box in their club, you have to take them. No one has offered a prediction of risk of getting HIV from boxing. This would be an interesting debate! But the mere fact that HIV-tainted blood could be flying freely about the ring seems to freeze all efforts at rational consideration.

After all, when Greg Louganis bopped his head and bled a little in the pool at the Olympics, he was terrified that he might be putting someone at risk! A small smear of blood in an entire pool of chlorinated water; there was no way anybody was going to get anything. But that fact never seemed to get mentioned in the discussion of the incident. The prospect of an HIVer in sports always seems to raise the issue of the rights of his non-HIV opponents, but never looks at the issue of the rights of the HIVers.

Well, I'm glad that Magic has gotten back into the game, however long it took him and despite whatever lies he had to tell to get there. And I'm particularly glad that he's there as an example of an HIVer who, instead of just dying, has continued to lead the kind of life he wants. But I don't think that sports in general has come around yet. ▼

Photo: Andrew Eccles/Outline

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CURRENT TRIALS

Oakland City Council Endorses Medical Marijuana

by Cynthia Laird

The Oakland City Council has passed a resolution to support the Compassionate Use Act of 1996, and also to declare that the investigation and arrest of individuals involved with the medical use of marijuana shall be a low priority for the city.

The group Californians for Compassionate Use (CCU) is gathering signatures to place a medical marijuana initiative on the State ballot this November.

According to Dennis Peron, CCU director, the resolution adopted by the city council sup-

ports the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club as providing a way for patients needing to purchase marijuana for medical use to do so with greater ease and less risk of arrest and prosecution.

The resolution also states that "Marijuana has been shown to help alleviate pain and discomfort in people suffering from a variety of illnesses including AIDS, cancer, glaucoma and multiple sclerosis, and also people with chronic illnesses when no other medications have been effective."

The council also noted in the resolution that the illegal purchase of marijuana by people already

suffering with chronic illnesses subjects them to further suffering in the form of potential arrest and prosecution.

Equally important, Peron stated, is the city giving low priority to cases involving the medical use of marijuana. According to the resolution, "The City of Oakland wishes to declare its desire not to expend city resources in any investigation, detention, arrest or prosecution arising out of alleged violations of state and federal law regarding the distribution of marijuana for compassionate medical use."

In the same resolution, the council also gave its full support to a federal bill, HR 2618, that would allow physicians to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes and would insure the production of marijuana to meet the need for medical uses. Peron stated that HR 2618 was introduced by Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) and its local co-sponsors are Congressmen Ron Dellums (D-Oakland) and Pete Stark (D-Hayward).

The council's resolution authorizes the city manager to instruct the city's federal lobbyists to work in support of HR 2618, while simultaneously making medical marijuana arrests a low priority for the city. ▼

Parker

Continued from page 11

Parker's story

Parker first tried to join the military in the late 1960s, but was denied enlistment, on medical grounds. After more than a decade passed, and she was hitting her 30s, she decided to try one more time.

"The medical exclusion from the 60s no longer held true, and I was accepted into the United States Navy in 1981," she told the B.A.R. proudly.

She immediately discovered the military had problems with women, and she was going to have problems with its discriminatory practices.

"Women were allowed into specific roles based on a quota system," she said; she had wanted to become an electrician, but when she applied for Electrician 'A' School she was told the system allowed only so many women in. Undeterred, she studied without the benefit of technical school to learn her specialty. "So as a result of my hard study I was able to make rate and become an avionics electrician," she said.

Her trouble did not end then. Once stationed, she found herself one of two women in a workstation of 47 men. "We were frequently assigned difficult tasks that required more physical strength," she recalled, "just to show we'd be unable to complete those tasks." Even so, she said, the two women used "brains rather than brawn" and completed their assigned tasks.

After being transferred into

training, where her responsibility was the entire squadron's training performance, she was awarded the Navy Achievement Award.

"I was always trying to prove myself as being as good or better than my male counterparts," she says. "We never had a heavy-duty sex problem, though."

Accusation = Discharge

The worst lesbian witchhunt of Parker's career occurred while she was in boot camp.

"All you had to have done to you was be accused," she told the B.A.R., "which meant a one-way ticket home and dishonorable discharge. Fortunately for me, I was not caught up in the net."

Recently she and her spouse of 15 years, Lee Miller, began work on an art piece of commemoration. Called The Wall of Restitution, it is a gay American flag made of 3" by 5" cards outlining homosexuals' experiences in the armed forces. Gay and lesbian veterans have sent Parker and Miller their DD214s, the notorious military statements that read "Dishonorably Discharged-homosexual," and some people have even contributed good conduct medals.

"It's a visual representation of our experiences, whether they were good or bad," Parker said. "We want this to be the longest representation of gay, lesbian, transgendered, and bisexual servicemembers."

"Some people carry the embarrassment of being dishonorably discharged, and this is a means for them to come out and be proud of who they are and what they've accomplished." ▼

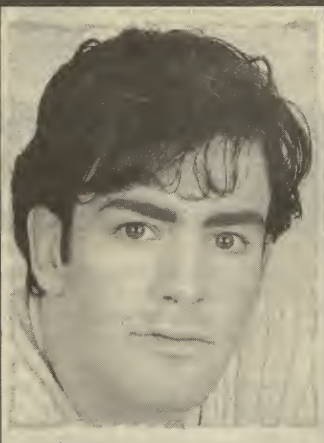
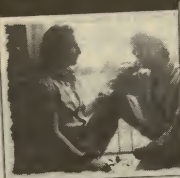
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by Hakeem Oseni II

A free seminar, "Getting Insurance When You're HIV-Positive" will be held next Thursday, March 28 at Golden Gate MCC, located at 1508 Church Street.

The seminar will be conducted by a financial planner, an independent insurance broker, and a viatical settlement representative. Several insurance options will be available at the conclusion of the seminar, and participants are asked to be prepared to fill out applications and bring their check-

books to pay initial premiums.

"We've done extensive research reviewing the application of over 60 insurance companies. Not only have we found roughly a dozen that will insure people who are living with HIV who are asymptomatic, but our research has turned up two companies who will insure people with AIDS under certain conditions," says seminar organizer Chuck Cole.

Space is limited, and so is the window of opportunity.

Call (415) 648-8895 or 1-800-330-5202 for more information. ▼

LYFE Breathes Life Back into Queer Youth Program

by Mary Ann Swissler

A kick-off party announcing new efforts to support Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment (LYFE) will be held Saturday, March 30 from 1 to 4 p.m.

LYFE began in 1991 as a program through Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center, and lasted for five years until funding was lost this year. Golden Gate Youth Services, Inc. will assume responsibility for its operation, although Lyon-Martin will remain LYFE's fiscal agent, and people can make tax-deductible contributions through the agency, according to Executive Director Donna Canali.

LYFE programs can literally spell the difference between life and death for lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender youth - as well as those questioning their sexual orientation. During its existence LYFE employed many unique services including a youth staff, peer counselors, support groups, adult mentors, and a newsletter written and produced by the participating youths.

Organizers hope the March 30 event will pull in new members and volunteers. It will be a reunion for previous participants and mentors. Featured performers include comedian Margery Krietman acting as emcee, DJ Leif spinning dance music, and comics Karin Jaffie, Darrick Richardson, and Dolores Trevino.

Free pizza will be donated by Marcello's.

The party will be held at the Social Hall on the second floor of the Metropolitan Community Church, located at 150 Eureka Street, between 18th and 19th streets. ▼

Call (415) 642-7240 for more information about this or future LYFE events.

Gays Arrested at NYC St. Pat's Parade

United Press International

Unlike San Francisco, where the annual St. Patrick's Day parade included Irish lesbians and gays, New York City's 235th annual event led to the arrest of 36 gay people who were excluded from the march for the sixth year in a row.

"We are here to bring the message that as Irish lesbians and gay men we have a right to participate fully in our community," Lisa Fane, a member of the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization, told United Press International. "Gay groups have marched in Ireland for years, so why shouldn't we do it here?"

Bill Donahue, a spokesman for New York's Catholic League, said the protesters were more interested in disrupting the parade than participating in it.

"This is the time for the Irish to come together," he said. "Not for a rally."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams was among the more controversial parade participants. Adams, the head of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, shook hands with New York's John Cardinal O'Connor after attending a mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral but made no comments to reporters. During the service, O'Connor urged political leaders to work towards world peace. ▼



For the third time, green and lavender mixed in the 144th annual SF St. Patrick's Day Parade, as ILGO marched to cheers down Market Street March 17.

Immune Response Starts HIV Therapy Trial

United Press International

Immune Response announced Monday, March 18 it has started a nationwide clinical trial of its therapy that fights HIV by stimulating the immune system.

Up to 3,000 HIV-positive people will participate in this trial testing of Remune, a therapy developed by the late Dr. Jonas Salk, who developed the first polio vaccine. Salk co-founded Immune Response, of Carlsbad, California.

Immune Response said Remune could provide physicians with a new weapon against HIV that complements antiviral drugs to attack HIV. Antiviral drugs are used to shut down the machinery that manufactures HIV while Remune is designed to direct the immune system to attack and kill infected cells.

The technique is similar to that developed by Salk in his polio vaccine.

The announcement comes on the heels of swift approval within the past month by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration of two protease inhibitors, which significantly cut the presence of the virus in the blood of patients when combined with other AIDS medicines.

With the launch of a Phase III trial Monday, the final stage of clinical trial, Remune is the first treatment designed to stimulate the immune system of HIV-infected patients to move this far along in testing.

The Phase III trial will involve HIV-infected individuals treated at more than 50 medical centers around the United States. The tests are designed to determine the effectiveness of Remune in slowing the progression of HIV infection to AIDS.

The trial is being led by Dr. James Kahn of the University of California, San Francisco and Dr. Stephen Lagakos of Harvard Uni-

versity. The trial will involve individuals with T cell counts between 300 and 550, the stage of the disease during which opportunistic infections generally begin to appear in HIV-infected people.

Remune is designed to stimulate an individual's immune system to attack HIV-infected cells and thus slow the progression of the disease.

"This clinical trial may become a model for future HIV therapy development," Lagakos said. "The trial is designed to allow patients to continue all current therapies, including the new protease inhibitors and other approved HIV treatments." ▼

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Senate Votes To Repeal HIV Service Ban

by Mike Salinas

The United States Senate delivered a stunning blow to homophobic California Congressman Robert Dornan Tuesday, March 19, by voting to repeal the ban on HIV-positive people in the armed forces.

It took less than 45 minutes for the Senate to vote against the measure Dornan introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives last year and attached to a larger Defense Appropriations Bill that passed two months ago. The measure had mandated removal of all HIV-positive servicemembers, and denial of key medical benefits for those people.

Several individuals and organizations had lobbied hard to get the ban rescinded, including President Clinton, basketball star Magic Johnson, and the normally conservative Veterans of Foreign Wars. Clinton had signed the authorization bill "reluctantly," saying at the time he would work to have it overturned, and Johnson wrote

both Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich about the matter.

The repeal occurred with virtually no floor debate, and passed through the Senate by a procedure that did not require a recorded vote, called "unanimous consent," in which all U.S. senators had the chance to stop it, but none did. The bill to which it was attached later passed on a vote of 79-21.

Because the House has not voted to rescind the ban, a compromise must be worked out between the two houses.

Dornan has said he will not give up fighting HIV-positive servicemembers, and called the way his measure was rescinded "gutless." He said supporting Senators would have paid "a very heavy penalty with family groups" if the vote had been recorded.

Dornan had counted on support from those "family groups" as he ran for the Republican presidential nomination this year, but the best showing he got in any state was zero percent. ▼

Currently Enrolling Study of 1592U89

1592U89 is an experimental drug which, in laboratory tests and preliminary results from this study, has shown good effect in reducing the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load) and in increasing CD4+ cell counts.

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Treatment lasts 12 weeks (4 weeks on 1592U89 alone followed by 8 weeks on 1592U89 + Retrovir or placebo). There are 10 visits in all; 3 are all-day visits. All study drug, lab tests and medical exams are provided free of charge.

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NCLR To Aid Lesbian in Custody Battle

by Mary Ann Swisler

San Francisco attorneys are helping to appeal a court ruling that gave custody of a Florida 11-year-old girl to her father, a convicted and self-confessed spousal murderer — because the judge said she should have “the option of living in a non-lesbian world.”

Mary Frank Ward, who lost custody of her daughter Cassie, told opposing lawyers in January that they were trying to portray some kind of sex-laden home life that didn't exist.

Kate Kendall, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco, told the *B.A.R.* that her group filed a brief January 23 on behalf of Ward. Her ex-husband, John Andrew Ward, successfully won custody after an August 1995 custody hearing in Florida. The girl had visited her father off and on, but lived for the majority of the time with her mother and attended the same school district throughout the year.

The judge in the case, Joseph Q. Tarbuck, ruled that John Ward met his burden of proof under Florida law that states a child's cus-

tody can be changed only if the child is being harmed in some way. According to court transcripts, Ward portrays his ex-wife as negligent and Cassie's home life as stressful because of her mother's relationship.

Ward himself spent eight years in prison for shooting his first wife to death.

The court overruled evidence to the contrary offered by Mary Ward, including proof of her ex-husband's absence from parent conferences at school, his refusal to pay child support until forced by the state of Florida; and his refusal to take part in Cassie's therapy for a condition known as attention deficit disorder, according to the hearing transcripts. Mary Ward told the court that he had never met with doctors to discuss Cassie's condition.

“I've been to [Cassie's] chorus recitals; he never did. She was a cheerleader for YMCA; he never attended — not one game,” she said.

When John Ward's attorney asked her during cross-examination if she wanted her daughter to grow up to be a lesbian, she responded, “I want Cassie to grow up to be the very best that Cassie can



NCLR Legal Director Kate Kendall

be, whatever's right for Cassie, not what I have deemed that that's exactly the way she's got to be.

“I want her to be able to develop her own ideas. I don't try to discolor those. I don't try to present that lifestyle or any lifestyle as being the typical lifestyle or whatever.”

Moreover, she added, “You're trying to portray some kind of lifestyle that just simply isn't there. She goes to school, she comes home to a clean home with clean

clothes, she does her homework, we watch TV, we prepare dinner. ... We don't sit around and talk about gay and lesbian relationships.”

“Just as my parents' sexual activity is no business of mine, my sexual activity is no business of hers.”

Kendall commented that this is the first case in Florida where a parent's sexual orientation has reached the state appellate level in a custody case.

“The majority of state appellate courts that have decided a custody case involving a lesbian or gay parent have held that sexual orientation should be a deciding factor in child custody,” she said.

Also jumping on the appeals bandwagon, according to Kendall, is the widely discredited Family Research Institute, operated by “Dr.” Paul Cameron. She said that NCLR has asked that Cameron's brief be ignored. “Rarely are they taken seriously — and in two cases, the courts themselves discredited him,” she said.

“The fact is Mary Ward has, for eight years, raised this child virtually alone. Mr. Ward had only sporadically paid child support, he never spent more than four consecutive days with the child, he never attended a parent-teacher conference, didn't know the name of her teacher, never went to a doctor's appointment, didn't know her friends, and in short, for eight years, had not engaged in any of the activities nor made any of the sacrifices that committed parents make.”

“Mary Ward demonstrated that commitment and made those sacrifices.” ▼

Japan Accepts HIV Lawsuit Compromise

United Press International

Japan's health and welfare minister said Friday, March 15 the government would accept a court-proposed compromise in lawsuits

brought by hemophiliacs who contracted HIV from untreated blood products.

A seven-year court battle over the tainted products appeared to be coming to a close after four of

five drug companies accepted the compromise on Thursday.

“We will accept the compromise and I sincerely want to apologize to people who suffer,” Health Minister Naoto Kan said.

“We still have a long way to go until both sides agree on details.”

An estimated 2,000 hemophiliacs contracted the virus from the tainted blood products imported from the United States.

Some patients had expressed anger, saying the compromise does not clarify the legal responsibilities of the government and the drug companies.

The previous week, two district courts presented a second compensation plan, suggesting the government pay 40 percent and companies 60 percent of a 45 million yen (\$428,571) settlement, plus an additional 150,000 yen (\$1,428) per month for each HIV patient who developing full-blown AIDS.

Preventable Tragedy

The Health and Welfare Ministry released files in late February showing it knew hemophiliacs could contract HIV through unheated blood products it sanctioned, officials said.

Documents and audiotapes released recently indicate the ministry could have taken measures to prevent the spread of HIV, but failed to do so and thus ignored the dangers of the virus.

The ministry had recommended the use of unheated blood products and promoted emergency imports of safer heated products. It reversed itself in July 1983 when it decided against the imported products.

The government's tacit permission to use untreated blood products in the mid-1980s, even after warnings from the United States, caused 40 percent of the nation's 5,000 hemophiliacs to contract HIV, and 400 have died from AIDS so far, officials said.

While Japan's Health and Welfare Ministry has yet to issue a ruling concerning the non-hemophiliac users of infected blood product imports, its contrite attitude toward the hemophiliac community was unequivocal Friday.

“The government apologizes from the bottom of its heart to the victims,” said Kan.

Kan accepted the court's second compensation plan, which called for the government to pay 40 percent and companies 60 percent of a 45 million yen

(\$428,571) per person settlement, plus an additional 150,000 yen (\$1,428) per month for each HIV patient who develops full-blown AIDS.

The five companies faced lawsuits from 400 HIV-infected hemophiliacs seeking compensation and a government-guaranteed payment of their monthly medical bills.

The four companies that accepted the compromise were Osaka-based Bayer Yakuhin Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the German company Bayer AG; Green Cross Corp., also based in Osaka; Tokyo-based Baxter Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Baxter International Inc. of the United States; and Chemo Sero Therapeutic Research Institution, based in Kumamoto City.

Osaka-based Nippon Zoki Pharmaceutical Co., the remaining company facing a lawsuit, was expected to announce its acceptance of the court recommendations, which are a compromise plan proposed by courts in Tokyo and Osaka two weeks earlier.

Family Files Murder Suit

Relatives of one man who allegedly died from the tainted blood said Saturday they will file suit in Osaka District Court against the Japanese importer of the blood products, the family's lawyers said.

The lawsuit on behalf of the man, who died of AIDS in December 1995, charges former Green Cross Corp. President Renzo Matsushita with murder.

Relatives and their lawyers allege the unnamed man, then in his 40s, was infected when he was treated for a liver ailment with unheated blood products sold by Green Cross.

The same family had filed a lawsuit soon after the man died, demanding 115 million yen (\$1.09 million) in compensation, which became the country's first non-hemophiliac, HIV-infection case.

Analysts said the Osaka case is important because it opens the door for further lawsuits against the government and the five companies who are alleged to have sold the tainted blood products that infected non-hemophiliac medical patients. ▼

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HEALTH & COMMUNITY

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ACT UP SF: committed to ending the AIDS crisis thru direct action. 1388 Haight St., #218 9417. Info: 252-2907.

Acupuncture: The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am. American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

AIDS Benefits Counselors: Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Community Research Consortium: conducts HIV and AIDS clinical trials at sites located in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. For a free listing of current trials available, call 800 864-ACRC.

AIDS Dementia Unit at St. Mary's Med. Center seeks volunteers. Call Ed Schultz, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project: Mixed caregivers and women's caregivers groups; drop-in groups for HIV+ and PWA, more. Info, intake interviews: 476-3902.

AIDS Memorial Grove: Monthly workdays: weeding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS-Related Vision Loss Support Group meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 209 or 215.

AIDS Treatment Education Network provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. 566-5683.

BAHAN (Bay Area HIV Advocacy Network) is a grassroots program of the SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, gov't lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. Info: Ryan Clary 864-5855 ext. 3032.

Baker Places provides housing for people with AIDS who have substance abuse and/or mental health issues. For info or intake call 284-1740.

Bay Positives: Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Bereavement Groups for family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Boy + Boy: actions which promote safe sex among young gay and bi men. Tues., 7pm at Stop AIDS Project, 201 Sanchez. 431-2ACT xBOY.

Community United Against Violence begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Comprehensive Outreach Project for Asian Substance Abusers: reduced risk of HIV infection thru counseling and treatment referrals. Multilingual. 541-9404.

Connections is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services: an adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Call 241-5500.

Davies Med. Center: Free classes for HIV+ people in needlepoint (Tues., Wed.), exercise (Tues., Thurs.), stress reduction (Mon.). Castro at Duboce. Info: 565-6369.

Deaf AIDS Center at UCSF Center on Deafness offers services to those with HIV experiencing hearing loss or deafness. Counseling, resources, practical support. Interpreting services and assisting devices on loan. 476-7600 (TTY) or 476-4980 (voice).

Diabetics: Support group for gay, lesbian and bisexual Type I and Type II diabetics in SF and the East Bay. Info: 865-2933.

DNCB Support Group: Meets 2nd & 4th Mon. at 194 Church St., 7:15pm. Call 954-8896.

FABRIC, a support/social group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning Asian and Pacific Islander youth 25-under, has drop-in every Tues., 6-8pm. GCHP, 30 Pearl St. 575-3939, x318/x504.

Fight the Right March organizing for April 14 march, volunteers needed. Call the National Organization for Women, 436-9390.

Friends, a new group for gay and bisexual men, meets alternating Tuesdays, 7:30pm at Pride Center, 200 5th St., Santa Rosa. (707) 524-7373.

Gay Fathers Support Network of Santa Rosa meets 1st Sun. of every month, 7pm. Info: Mark (707) 523-6941.

Gay Young Spirit, a new spiritual/social group for gay men in their 20s & 30s, meets alternate Tues., 7:15pm, in SF. Call 703-7181.

G40+ Club is a social group for gay/bi men, meets 1st & 3rd Sundays every month, 2pm. Call 552-1997.

Healing Alternatives Foundation maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Hepatitis "B" Testing and vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley. Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

HIV/AIDS Services at Operation Concern: Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS/ARC, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. Operation Concern, 1853 Market St.

HIV and African-American Gay/Bisexual Men support groups every Wed., 6:30-8pm. Brothers Network, 973 Market, Suite 650. 356-8140.

HIV Care offers the latest clinical trials from the Amfar community-based trial network and the transgender industry, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Nutrition Discussion/Support Group: Ongoing monthly meetings at city clinics, call for info: CARE Program Nutritionists, 554-9121.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group: Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group, 18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

Housing and Client Assistance Program for PWAs provides emergency housing and financial help to residents of San Mateo Co. Mental Health Assn. of San Mateo Co. 368-9889.

Immune Enhancement Project treats persons with HIV-related illness using a program of traditional Chinese medicine and herbal supplements. Info: 252-8711.

INVENTION sponsors support groups for HIV negative men Tues. evenings, 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 522-1785.

Iris Center: Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Kaiser Permanente Hospice seeks volunteers to assist with patients with AIDS or cancer, 7-week training session begins in Jan. Info: 202-3173.

Lambda Youth and Family Empowerment Program (LYFE): Peer support and mentoring programs for lesbian/ gay/ bisexual/ transgender youth. 565-7681.

Legal Services for Children's H.O.P.E. Project provides social and legal services to low-income HIV affected families. Info: 863-3762.

Linea de Ambiente: Information, referral and emotional support for gay, lesbian and bi Latinos regarding immigration, HIV, social services, a project of Gente Latina de Ambiente (GELAAM). 243-9534.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center: Primary health care for women by women. Counseling, anonymous testing, prevention education, support groups for HIV+ women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC Youth Talkline seeks volunteers 23 and under to be listeners on the line. No experience necessary. Call Olga by April 1 at 703-6150.

The Mark Pope Career Counseling Center: a non-profit career counseling agency serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities of the Bay Area. 760 Market St., Suite 962. 296-8024.

Martin De Porres House of Hospitality needs volunteers to work in soup kitchen, breakfast and lunch. 225 Potrero. 552-0240.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon-Fri., 7-10pm, (510) 845-7273.

MCC Chronic/Life-Threatening Support Group: Every Wed., 1-3pm, at MCC, 150 Eureka St. Free, drop-in. Call 863-4434.

MWM: a rap group for gay/bi Asian Pacific Islander men and their partners. Tues. nights, 6:30pm. Asian AIDS Project, 785 Market, Suite 420. 227-1586.

Operation Concern's 18th Street Services provides confidential HIV risk reduction education, and free HIV testing. 861-4898.

Project Inform: HIV/AIDS treatment info hotline, 558-9051; journal, and educational Town Meetings. 800-822-7422.

Project Open Hand provides free home-delivered hot meals and free groceries to anyone with symptomatic HIV in San Francisco and Alameda Counties. Various ethnic and restricted diets available, plus free nutritional counseling. No wait-

ing list. Call 1-800-551-MEAL. **Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida** provides peer counseling, legal assistance, workshops, therapy and housing referrals, free. 864-7278.

Q. Action: Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

RADICAL Women: Business mtg, 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month, 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

re plen ish offers individual and group retreats for professional caregivers in the HIV community. Info: Kay, 864-5140 or write PO Box 410592, SF 94141.

Richard M. Cohen Residence, SF's first assisted-living residence for people disabled by AIDS, needs volunteers (call 558-0503) and household donations (call Wayne April, 282-6209).

Transgendered Support Group holds a potluck every third Saturday, 6:30pm at MCC San Jose, 65 S. Seventh St., San Jose. Call Rev. Chad Pifer, 279-2711.

UCSF AIDS Health Project offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Under One Roof, the Shop for AIDS Relief, seeks volunteers to work on the sales floor and in the office. Call Mary Beth, 252-9430.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center SF seeks volunteers to join its AIDS/ARC Volunteer Program. Volunteers visit patients in hospital and help in simple care tasks. Volunteers for AIDS Home Care and Phone Buddy Program are also needed. Contact Ronald Hunt, AIDS Volunteer Program Coordinator, VA Medical Center, 4150 Clement St., 750-2144.

We Care Bay Area provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Women's Cancer Resource Center: Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families & doctors. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, newsletter, educational programs, legal workshop & more. (510) 548-9272 or 548-WCRC. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

Send Health and Community Listings to: Calendar Editor, Bay Area Reporter, 3025 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202599

The following person(s) are doing business as HOT TIN ROOF, LTD., 1703 Funston Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. HOT TIN ROOF, LTD. (CORPORATION/CA), 1703 Funston Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 29, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed JOAN F. CARAVANTES/CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 29, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202465

The following person(s) are doing business as SAN FRANCISCO NEWS CLIPS, 323 Geary St., Suite 401, San Francisco, CA 94102. CAPTION PLUS (CORPORATION/CA), 1850 Ignacio Blvd., Suite 210, Novato, CA 94949. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 26, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed KIMBERLY RUSSELL, PRESIDENT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 26, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202852

The following person(s) are doing business as ASSOCIATED BUILDERS, 4026 3rd Street, San Francisco, CA 94124. John H. Chung, 371 Klamath Street, Brisbane, CA, 94005. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 11, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John H. Chung. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar. 11, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202330

The following person(s) are doing business as TRASH THERAPY, 3415 22nd St., #22, San Francisco, CA 94110. KEVIN C. DEMPSEY, 3415 22nd St., #22, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 20, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed KEVIN C. DEMPSEY. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 20, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202405

The following person(s) are doing business as SUPER BRIGHT LAUNDRY, 240 Leavenworth, San Francisco, CA 94102. SAMLEY KHAVANN, 340 Eddy St., #501, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 22, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed SAMLEY KHAVANN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 22, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202414

The following person(s) are doing business as STAYNSTYLE INTERNET ADVERTISING, 566 Wisconsin Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. THEODORE WRIGHT, 566 Wisconsin Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 23, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed THEODORE WRIGHT. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 23, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202690

The following person(s) are doing business as THE GANGWAY, 841 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Waltraud Ziegler, 350 Turk Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Waltraud Ziegler. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 05, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202485

The following person(s) are doing business as SAN FRANCISCO LOAN COMPANY, 675 Potrero Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127. Christopher Dwayne Baker, 631 Pointe Pacific Drive #9, Daly City, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 05, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed CHRISTOPHER DWAYNE BAKER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Feb. 27, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202672

The following person(s) are doing business as WORLD INSPECTION NETWORK OF METRO SAN FRANCISCO, 2215-R Market St., #607, San Francisco, CA 94114. Knight Inspections, Inc. (a California Corp.), 660 Clipper St., #213, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Dec. 01, 1995. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Nicholas J. Knight, Pres. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 04, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 11, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202758

The following person(s) are doing business as ABE'S CAFE, 353 Divisadero St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Ibrahim Hadeed, 448 Geottingen St., San Francisco, CA 94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 06, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ibrahim Hadeed. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 06, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202838

The following person(s) are doing business as MUSICA LATINA-AMERICAN MUSIC-MISSION MUSIC CENTER, 2653 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Ernesto Revena Gonzalez, 1541 Edgeworth Ave., Colma, CA 94014. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ernesto R. Gonzalez. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202830

The following person(s) are doing business as COUP D'ETAT, INC., 550 15th St., Suite 24, San Francisco, CA 94103. Coup D'Etat, Inc. (Delaware Corp.), 550 15th St., Suite 24, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 13, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Frederick Krueger, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202824

The following person(s) are doing business as MORALES SUBIRRI AND ASSOCIATES, 866 Green Street #6, San Francisco, CA 94133. Dulce M. Morales, 866 Green Street #6, San Francisco, CA 94133. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Dulce M. Morales. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 11, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 203027

The following person(s) are doing business as MAC SUPPORT ASSOCIATES, 584 Castro Street Suite 331, San Francisco, CA 94114-2500. Christie MNM Raemer, Jr., 584 Castro Street Suite 331, San Francisco, CA 94114-2500. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Christie Raemer, Jr. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 15, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 11, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202758

The following person(s) are doing business as CROW BAGS, 250 Napoleon St., Suite E, San Francisco, CA 94124. Daria Hilton, 2518 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94107. Eric R. Hilton, 1752 Fell St., San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed Daria Hilton. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 14, 1996.

Mar 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 11, 1996

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LEGAL NOTICES

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 976276

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTRY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in th matter of the application of SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO for change of name. The application of SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO has filed an application proposing that HER name be changed to PAIGE SHEILA ELISABETH MCADOO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 4th day of April, 1996, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day, to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said country, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 23rd day of February, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202829

The following person(s) are doing business as WHITE SANDS MULTIMEDIA, 1817 California St. #203, San Francisco, CA 94109; Chris Athanas, 1817 California St. #203, San Francisco, CA 94109. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 8, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Chris Athanas. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 202819

The following person(s) are doing business as THE LAST DRAGON, 72 Mirabel Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110; Jack Lewis Care, 72 Mirabel Ave, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of March 08, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jack L. Care. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on Mar 08, 1996.

Mar 14, 21, 28, 1996, Apr 04, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 976377

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTRY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in th matter of the application of ROSE MARIE MORGAN for change of name. The application of ROSE MARIE MORGAN for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that ROSE MARIE MORGAN has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to LEON ALLEN MORTENSEN. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 10th day of April, 1996, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day, to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said country, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 28th day of February, 1996.

Mar 07, 14, 21, 28, 1996.

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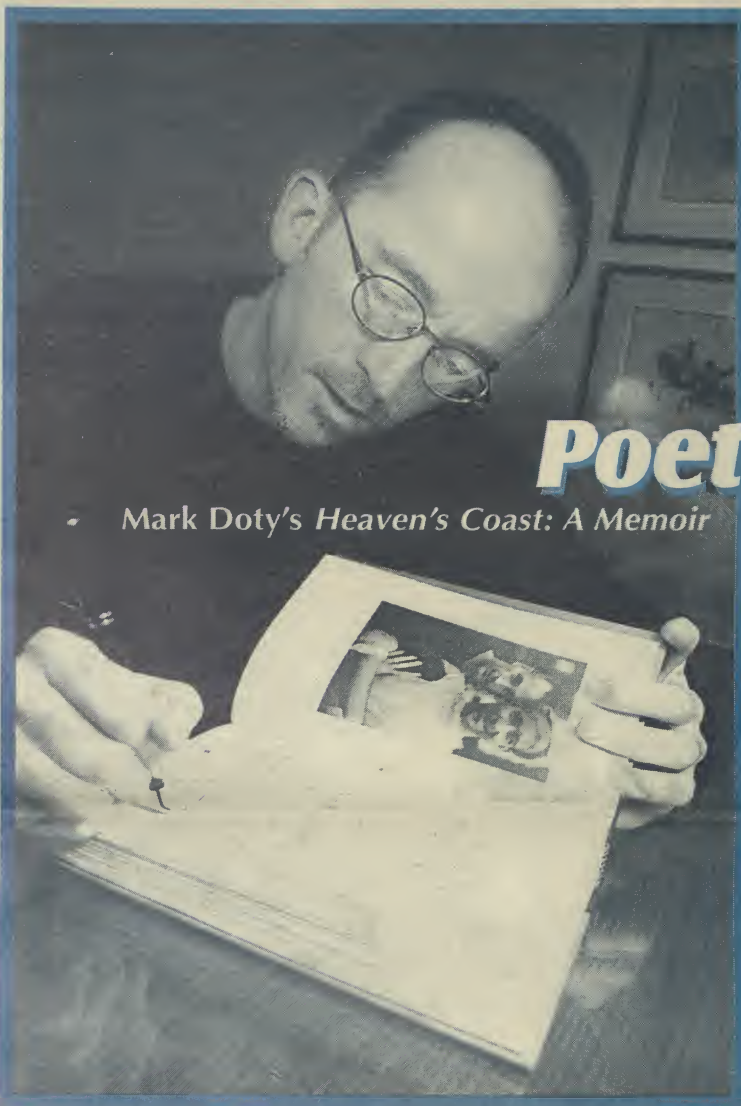


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Poetic Prose

Mark Doty's *Heaven's Coast: A Memoir*

by Patrick D. Hoctel

Mark Doty shot to literary fame three years ago with the publication of *My Alexandria*. This book of poems, his third, copped the National Book Critics Circle Award, the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award, was selected for the National Poetry Series, and was a finalist for the National Book Award. His follow-up effort, *Atlantis*, only won him more plaudits. Now, however, Doty has turned from poetry to prose to tell the story of his partner Wally Roberts' battle with AIDS in the wondrously eloquent and terribly moving *Heaven's Coast*. The author met with the B.A.R. recently to talk about his memoir, AIDS writing in general, faith in the future and love after death, among other things.

My experience reading Heaven's Coast was that it became more personal, more revelatory, less guarded, as it progressed, and I wondered if you felt that while writing it — what was that process like?

Certainly I felt that I was learning to be a prose writer as I entered more deeply into the book — because writing has always been what I turned to to know what I felt and thought. I have that long-standing habit in poetry, but I did not have it in writing prose. This was the first time that I experienced that same sense of discovery, of a shape, of an order to things, in paragraphs as opposed to stanzas...so I suppose that as I continued to work, it's probably true that my confidence about the form increased.

You have written so movingly about Wally, his life and death, in your poetry that I was curious why you're now going the nonfiction route to talk about him. What could you say in a memoir that you couldn't say in your poems?

My sense was that I needed to pay attention to that first year of grief and its movements and changes. Most memoirs are written from some consistent point of view looking back at an experience, at a time. That was not my intention here. I wanted to write this book in increments as my perspective changed over the course of that year.

Continued on page 48

Love Boat meets Dark Victory in AIDS weeper

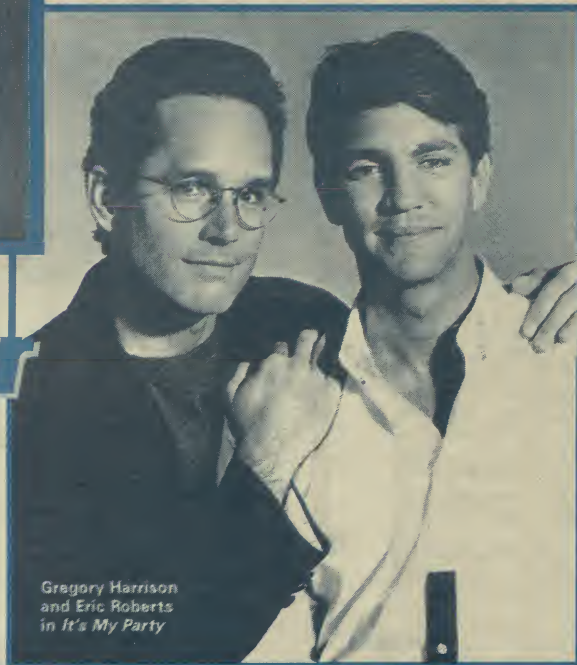
Party Pooper

by Robert Julian

When Hollywood dumps all its B-list actors into an AIDS melodrama for the masses you know it's a warning that you had better fasten your seat belts. But with *It's My Party*, writer/director Randal Kleiser's latest, you had better grab that pillow and reach for the oxygen mask, because this baby is goin' down.

It's My Party has everything. Gregory Harrison, looking good in his new toupee, plays an LA film director, Brandon Theis, who turns a cold shoulder to his lover Nick (Eric Roberts) when Nick tests HIV-positive. Nick moves out and, three years later, is diagnosed with "PML," an AIDS-related brain ailment that spells imminent death. Blindness descends just before the end, a la *Dark Victory*, allowing Eric Roberts to act his way around the back yard, dogs in tow, like

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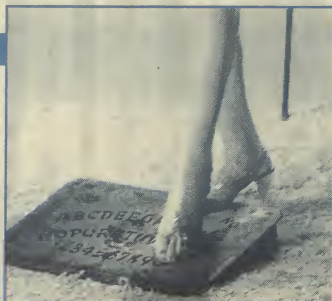
Gregory Harrison and Eric Roberts in *It's My Party*

Photo: Robert Zuckerman

MUSIC

A chat with Ann Magnuson

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MUSIC

Echobelly: A multiculti answer to Brit-Pop

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THEATER

Ms. von Buchau on 'Music of the Night'

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Susie Bright

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

An enormous crowd made up of SF's best and most glamorous queers converged on the Castro Theatre last Thursday for the long-awaited theatrical premiere of *The Celluloid Closet*. As expected, the crowd ate it up, especially the interview segments with Susie Bright, who is simply fabulous throughout, bitchy Gore Vidal, and Sassy Susan Sarandon.

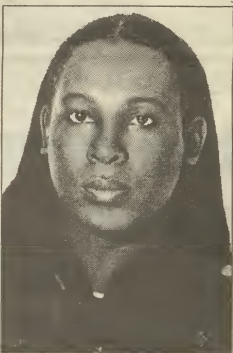
It's one thing to sit in a screening room and snicker while Barbara Stanwyck and Capucine go toe-to-toe in *Walk on the Wild Side*, or laugh in horror as a sneering William Windom beats a queen over the head with an ash-tray in *The Detective*, but to experience these hilarious and pathetic images while surrounded by thousands of openly gay people in this fabulous queer capital is a truly liberating experience. Few probably realized it at the time, but Thursday's premiere was an important moment in queer history.

And, yes, Lily was there, for about five minutes. Since no one gave a spelling quiz involving Q words, she came off just fine. All things considered, if anybody in the audience was holding a grudge against her because of that business reported in the *Village Voice*, you wouldn't have known it Thursday. The ecstatic crowd jumped to its feet the minute she walked on stage. Everybody that is except for two bitchy queens in the second row (left side, near the aisle), who kept fingering their goatees, throwing their heads back in exaggerated expressions of disdain and whispering conspiratorially during her short statement.

Bitchy queens aside, the response to the film was wholly positive, and the mood at the Castro upbeat as the two filmmakers introduced all the behind-the-scenes people who made *The Celluloid Closet* possible and said a few words about the person who inspired it, Vito Russo. Epstein, who wore a beautifully tailored gray suit—definitely Armani—related to the audience that in honor of the late film scholar, he and Friedman had recently placed some of Russo's ashes (they'd been carrying a small parcel of them around since Russo's death in the early '90s) in the wall of the Castro Theatre.

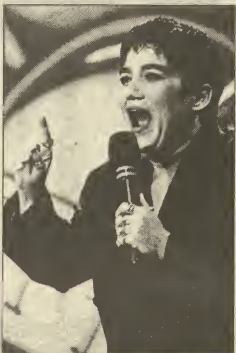
Now that *Celluloid Closet* is behind them, we wonder what's

next for Epstein and Friedman. Perhaps these two enterprising chaps could light a fire under the perpetually dogged *The Mayor of Castro Street* project? Or, as one SF Italian fagala has suggested, "They should do a biopic on Sylvester, and cast RuPaul in the lead." Whatever it is Rob and Jeff decide to do, it's sure to be smashing.



Sylvester

The *Closet* screening presented stiff competition for Lea De Laria's comedy show at the Great American Music Hall last Thursday, which drew a pretty hefty crowd despite the fact that everyone in town was at the Castro. If you missed Lea's gig, don't fret. We'll be seeing a lot of her in the coming months on television (in various cameos) and on the silver



Lea De Laria

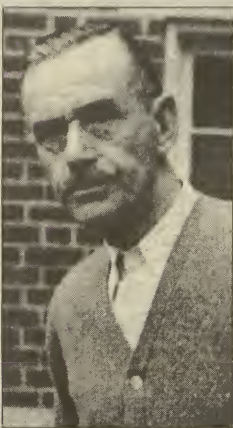
screen, in a bit part for the forthcoming flick *The First Wives Club*, in which she plays a bull dyke who hits on Goldie Hawn's daughter. The film, something about a bunch of well-to-do women who band together to dump their tired husbands, has an intimidating, all-star line-up—Goldie, Bette Midler, Heather Locklear, Maggie Smith, Stockard Channing—but we're sure De Laria will hold her own. Film is due out this summer.

That's What She's Paid For: Owing to our assiduous reporting last month on her blossoming literary career, we agreed at Out There to make no further mention of Martina Navratilova in these pages this year. But, alas, she simply refuses to go away. Last week we were walking down Folsom Street when suddenly we saw that familiar mug staring up at us from the gutter, where she lay sprawled across the moldering pages of the other queer fish wrap.

Hoping against hope that it might shed new light on the mystery that is Martina, we reached down and picked up this scintillating interview and began reading. Though not new to Martina's astounding propensity for tomfoolery, we were nonetheless shocked by what we read. To the question, "Do you like being an author?" Martina blithely responded, "Well, I guess I still like being an author." When asked why she got into writing, she offered the colorless rejoinder: "Well, it was Liz Nickles' idea [her co-author]." When asked about the writing process, she related: "We just sort of get together and talk." The biggest howler, though, is when Nav is asked, "Do you do any of the actual writing?" "No," Nav responded. "She's the writer. That's

what she's paid for." What we'd like to know, then, is what *do* you do, Martina?

Among the many dreary and forgettable books that have descended upon the B.A.R. in recent weeks, there was one gem, Anthony Heilbut's biography of Thomas Mann, *Thomas Mann: Eros and Literature* (Alfred A. Knopf; \$40). The book attempts to understand the bountiful homoeroticism of the literary giant's work against the backdrop of a culturally and politically divided Germany. Heilbut observes that Mann's youth was "contemporaneous with the political unification of Germany, the legal emancipation of German Jewry and the popularization of the term homosexual," cultural realities that became for the author "a theater for the exploration of



Thomas Mann

the license and limits of German, Jewish and homosexual self-expression." Heilbut devotes considerable space to Mann's legendary novella *Death in Venice* and how it celebrates homoerotic longing while "depicting a national idol dying amid debased tourism."

The great thing about this book is that it doesn't put the brakes on the queer stuff, as have so many other Mann biographies. The author cites letters and journal entries in support of his thesis that Mann not only acted on his homosexual impulses but, moreover, to quote *Kirkus Reviews*, "had tacit understandings with his family about his orientation."

A little bird in New York (an aging cormorant, actually) tells us that the new editor of New York's glossy, tony, just-too-fabulous *Quest* magazine, strictly for the Upper East and Upper West side crowd (a photo of Kitty "To Tell the Truth" Carlisle Hart circa 1926 graces the cover), is none other than Brooks Peters, who once did time at this prestigious rag. In a lengthy, front-of-the-mag bio, Mr. Peters' many fine literary credits are detailed. But for some unexplainable reason, his contributions to the B.A.R. were omitted. Is he ashamed, or are they?

Finally, isn't that B.D. Wong just Mr. Versatility these days? One second he's half-mincing his way through *Father of the Bride, Part Two*, the next he's butchering it up—well, almost—as a macho commando trying to save the day along with Kurt Russell and another recent mincer, John Leguizamo, in *Executive Decision*. Gives credence to that old saw about Hollywood, "It's all done with mirrors." ▼

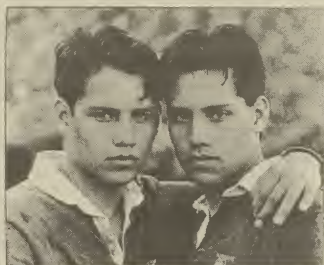
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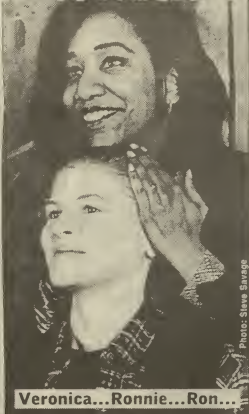
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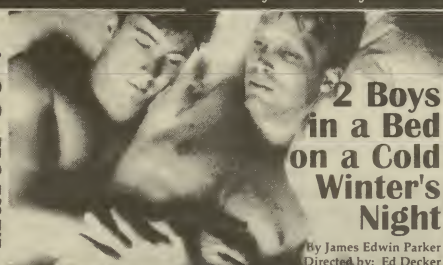
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FILM

Blood Sisters Examines Local S/M Scene No Pain, No Gain

by Robin Ward

Enter a domain that throws people for a loop, sends them into deepest inner conflict and strident expressions of fanaticism. *Blood Sisters*, Michelle Handelman's documentary about San Francisco's lesbian S/M community, is a fusillade of potent images and scenes that creatively depicts this often misunderstood lifestyle. Featuring a soundtrack by punky girl bands and edifying monologues by a series of well-spoken, sentient women, the film provides the open-minded with all they could possibly want to know about this subject.

If the film's collage-style barrage of images amounts to overkill at times, it is fairly appropriate for the subject matter. Cartoons, old photos, and movie stills fly constantly across the screen in a la artful MTV video-mation. MTV, however, usually leaves out the mummified persons, the pins in bleeding cheeks, the slave auctions, the clothes-pinning, fire-eating, dildo-sucking, whip-wielding, meat tenderizers, plastic tubing, wooden paddles, plastic tubing, pliers and tit clamps.

The perfectly discerning speakers, who sometimes sport Band-Aids (the viewer's eye may stray in search of bruises), include such women as J.C. Collins, a photographer, motorcycle mechanic and Ms. San Francisco Leather 1992; Peggy Sue, a 1996 vice-presidential candidate (with Joan Jett Blakk for pres); and



Photo: Dawn Lewis

All wrapped up with no place to go: a scene from *Blood Sisters*.

Rainbeau, a stripper, hair stylist and mother.

No film about leatherwomen would be complete without the

meaty, munificent presence of the ever-articulate Pat Califia. "I'm convinced most of America has

Continued on next page

The Ultimate Women's Prison Pic Behind the Iron

by Jenni Olson

Pile out you tramps! It's the end of the line!

So begins the 97-minute celluloid imprisonment of innocent 19-year-old Marie Allen (Eleanor Parker) in *Caged* (Castro Theatre, Tuesday, March 26). Her sentence commences with a harrowing trek through the dank interiors of the generically titled Women's State Prison, where Marie will serve 1 to 15 years "behind the iron" for Armed Robbery. Marie's husband of three months was killed in the gas station hold-up while she waited, oblivious to what was going down, in the car. The young and frightened (and pregnant) Marie will be on the verge of tears throughout the first half of the film; gradually, subtly, she will be iconographically transformed from virgin to whore.

In deep-focus, expressionistic, high contrast black-and-white cinematography: Marie's newborn child will be taken by the state; she will attempt to escape after being denied parole; be cruised by "queen bee" Kitty Stark ("Think it over, Sweetie. But, get this through your head — you stay in here too long, you don't think of guys at all. You just get outta the habit.") and by "vice queen" Elvira Powell ("What's your name?"); Marie will find a kitten in the exercise yard, feed it milk from a tin can, and it will be accidentally killed in a cell block riot; Marie will be tormented, abused, and beaten with a rubber hose; her head will be shaved, she will be entombed in solitary ("stir") until she's nearly "stirbugs," and she will emerge looking butch as an



"Think it over, sweetie, you stay in here too long and you don't think of guys at all." Wise words from *Caged*, at the Castro, March 26.

auto-mechanic in her overalls and lipstick. When she is released from stir, a twinkle of violent insanity in her eyes, she will cheer, "Kill her! Kill her! Kill her! Kill her!" as Kitty Stark knifes the sadistic prison matron in the chest (with a fork).

And finally, Marie will wise up, accept the advances of Elvira Powell, make a deal with the mob, and be released from prison a hardened criminal.

Released as an A-picture in 1950 by Warner Brothers, *Caged* received two Academy Award nominations for Best Supporting Actress: for Parker, for her remarkable evolution from doe-eyed girl to gravel-voiced dame;

and for Hope Emerson, who portrayed the barbarous prison matron, Evelyn Harper.

Caged has real characters: Benton, the humanitarian warden, played by Agnes Moorehead; Emma Barber, a woman who has just killed her husband, played by a young Ellen "Grandma Walton" Corby; and June, who hangs herself when she's denied parole. *Caged* has iron and concrete mise-en-scene. *Caged* has some of the best dialogue ever written: "Everytime he kisses me goodnight, I just want to keep on leavin' him." *Caged* is not just another trashy women's prison picture; it's *THE* trashy women's prison picture. ▼

FILM

Party Pooper

Continued from cover

Bette Davis putzing in her garden before climbing those stairs one last time.

But unlike Davis, Roberts' character does not send his beloved away quietly. Nick decides to throw a big two-day party for all his friends and family, a maudlin command performance that ends with Nick's suicide by drug overdose amid much war and remembrance. Only the immediate family is invited to watch Nick's final moments.

In the Geraldine Fitzgerald/best friend role, *It's My Party* offers San Francisco's own Margaret Cho. Zaftig Cho looks like she has been doing some major eating since her sit-com got canceled. Her character, a self-proclaimed "fag hag," explains with a straight face that "Nick gave me self-esteem." She returns the gift by serving as the party's social director for what plays like the Love Boat of death. Among the preposterous casting choices, Lee Grant stands out as Nick's Greek mother, Amalia. Grant's accent comes and goes, and her Old World attitude is strangely at odds with her Jose Eber haircut. As Nick's estranged, Jewish, alcoholic father, George Segal plays the same character he has played for 30 years. And Marlee Matlin, as Nick's deaf sister, has enough of a speech impediment that some of her lines are indecipherable.

Other party arrivals include friends played by Sally Kellerman, Olivia Newton-John, Bruce Davison and Roddy McDowall. As one of Nick's gay friends, Bronson Pinchot reprises, yet again, his bitchy, swishy queen stereotype. Gregory Harrison is the only actor to survive this mess with dignity. Harrison wisely plays the uptight Hollywood director with a square jaw and stiff upper lip, allowing Eric Roberts to fail spectacularly in the more flamboyant role of Nick. Roberts plays the emotionally scarred, dying Nick with a perpetual sneer that belies Nick's feelings for the friends and family he gathers around him. It is a grating and insincere performance further handicapped by Randal Kleiser's hammy direction and ludicrous script.

So bad it's not even camp

Unlike *Philadelphia* and *Longtime Companion*, which both had the good sense to focus on the humanity of their characters, *It's My Party* goes for the cheap shot



Photo: Robert Zuckerman

Gregory Harrison and zaftig Cho in *It's My Party*.

every time. There is no joke too silly, no line too cheap for screenwriter Kleiser. Anyone who has been involved in an assisted suicide, or who has lost friends to AIDS, will probably feel insulted by the incredible way these subjects are trivialized by Kleiser.

For example, near the beginning of the film, Nick and Brandon show up at the home of a friend who has committed suicide the night before. The friend, an AIDS patient, had asked the couple to prepare his body for the funeral. But when the two arrive, they discover their friend hasn't been successful in his drug overdose. He is still breathing. Under Kleiser's direction, Eric Roberts and Gregory Harrison are then shown bickering about whether it's best to finish him off with a pillow or a plastic bag, then arguing about what kind of plastic would be best. Harrison reaches into the man's closet and pulls out a hanger holding a red spaghetti-strap cocktail dress—an essential element of every gay man's

closet—sheathed in plastic. A few moments later, when the friend is dead, jocular Nick jumps on the bed and poses beside the corpse. Grinning broadly, he asks, "Anyone got a camera?" before proclaiming in stentorian tones, "Elvis has left the building."

It's My Party is so bad it would be high camp if the subject matter weren't so challenging. In the hands of a better writer/director, it might even have become a black comedy. But with this cast and director, we have the equivalent of a very bad disease-of-the-week TV melodrama that somehow stumbled into commercial release. Insulting and condescending, *It's My Party* is, at best, clueless. At worst, it is a throwback to the *Norman, Is That You?* days of unconscious Hollywood gay-bashing. How so many well-intended people could commit their time and energies to a work like this is a mystery. ▼

***It's My Party* opens March 22 at AMC Kabuki.**

Blood Sisters

Continued from page 44

been tied to a bedpost somewhere," she says, pointing to a common thread that binds us all. She speaks of the necessity of laughing at oneself as a member of a community which must haul "80 pounds of luggage into the bedroom before we can get off."

Today's leather community is distinguished by an intensive level of underground coding—the infamous hanky symbolism effect, which signifies strength in numbers and growth of a stance. There are safe-sex shows demonstrating the proper way to make those Exacto cuts in someone's back, International Leather Contests, the Folsom Street Fair, clubs like Bondage a Go-Go, and a system of obscure abbreviations and terminologies to go with any number of imaginable acts. "There needs to be an S/M school," posits one woman.

Unfortunately there are also those strangling rules, labels and norms to which one is asked to conform. Puts one in mind of old

maxims of persecuted subcultures buckling under mainstream pressures, and ending up with the worst fears of their own internal differences. The general consensus among the women in this film is that "The S/M community is amazingly brave because it's very hard to be as out as they are."

The leather community is the minority's minority, so queer even other queers disown them. Misconceptions and prejudices abound. There is a widespread notion that S/M is an offshoot of the patriarchy; there are feminist issues with violence, and an overriding general feeling that S/M is sick and depraved. There is no existing legal definition of S/M. It's simply assault, and no one can consent to assault. *Blood Sisters* is necessarily big on the civil rights aspects of S/M.

One particularly poignant moment in the film occurs when a young woman named Skeeter describes a scene with her lover unto death. In the intensity of their enactment, the partner offers up her life, a "just do it" request, from which Skeeter abstains. The narra-

tor describes softly the temptation to cross that final, rather frightening boundary, but says that she always felt S/M was a sane strong place for her and that if she lost those things she would stop.

J.C. Collins relays a similar feeling: "It's a spiritual thing, a way to take everything that happens to me outside that hurts, make hurt reality and then it can heal. It's a way to get closer to people. You really have to trust somebody to do this." Collins believes, "One of the things the queer community has over straight people is that our lives have been made political by our sexual identity. So there is no part of our life we don't look at." *Blood Sisters* is a good hard look at some of these more unusual parts. ▼

***Blood Sisters*, with Pat Califia, Donna Shrou, Skeeter, Queen Cougar, Tala Brandies, Peggy Sue and others, plays March 21 & 22 at the Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. Call 863-1087 for information.**

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Fetching Bouquet

Almodovar's *The Flower of My Secret* Reveals New Direction for Filmmaker

by Matthew Kennedy

Folks tend to make a big fuss over Pedro Almodovar's films. Neurotic women, lovelorn gay men and a touch of kink have earned him an enviable place among the cinematic vanguard. But despite all the hype that attends his films, one can't help but feel there is something lacking in his artistic vision, something that will guarantee the films will not age well. Yes, they are loads of fun to watch, what with all those spectacular apartments and color-coordinated clothes, but in terms of plot and character development, his films are remarkably insubstantial.

Still, there is plenty to like in Almodovar. A delight in human absurdity informs all his movies, making their comic and dramatic elements delightfully tangy. And the fact that he is in-your-face gay and refreshingly sympathetic to

women is a welcome rarity today in a filmmaker. He also appears, thankfully, to have little or no interest in abandoning his post-Franco Spanish homeland for the moneyed haunts of mainstream movie-making. He need only look to Mira Nair for the latest cautionary tale of Hollywood's corrosive allure. She went from the exquisite *Salaam Bombay!* to the wretched *Perez Family* with one loud crashing thud.

Almodovar's latest film, *The Flower of My Secret*, has many of the standard Almodovarisms but suggests new directions for the filmmaker. Marisa Paredes plays Leo, a middle-aged woman on the verge of an existential breakdown. She is a successful romance novelist who writes under the pseudonym Amanda Gris. Her literary heroines are strong, passionate and in control. In contrast, Leo is struggling with a dotty mother, absent husband, and a crisis of the muse. She wants to break free of



Marisa Paredes and Imanol Arias in Pedro Almodovar's *The Flower of My Secret*.

her literary confinements at the same time her housekeeper is reigniting a career as a great flamenco dancer. The movie's central crisis is Leo's marriage, which crumbles before our eyes in a painful scene of confrontation.

The only constant is change, so how do we cope with it? Leave it to Almodovar to approach this common question with freshness and wit. The strains of melodrama are more prominent here than in *Women on the Verge of a Nervous*

Breakdown and *What Have I Done to Deserve This?* Here he does not interrupt seriousness with craziness quite so frequently, and he seems to have jettisoned the regrettable psycho-killer currents we saw in *Tie Me Up, Tie Me Down* and *Kika*.

The Flower of My Secret tries to find its greater humanity through ordinary foibles. Almodovar might even be reaching for something akin to the great humanism of De Sica, Ray and

Kurosawa. He is beginning to use the power of subtle expressions, slow pacing and extreme close-ups. The film's most prominent characters, Leo, her estranged husband Paco, the housekeeper and her kleptomaniac son, are easily recognizable and endowed with a sympathetic and gentle decency.

If *The Flower of My Secret* sounds like a soap opera Madrid-style, it's not. Just as bathos threatens to call, Almodovar throws his audience a tonic. The moments of neo-vaudevilian craziness occur when Leo's mother (Chus Lampreave) and sister (Rossy de Palma) battle over diet and constipation. De Palma is to Almodovar what Shelley Duvall was to Robert Altman in the '70s — a goony delight who can't find a comfortable home in anybody else's movies. She of the shocking nose and profile need only show up to guarantee a giggle or two.

The same loving attention to women and the same jumps of mood that fill Almodovar's past efforts return in *The Flower of My Secret*. But there is a vein of seriousness here that suggests he is in the mood to explore. With this film, Almodovar reveals a subtle ache to try something new. We can only hope the payoff is memorable. He is only 44, his talent is young, and he just may break into something new that is altogether magical. ▼

The Flower of My Secret opens Friday, March 22, throughout the Bay Area.

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Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Music of the Night* That's Kitschertainment!

by Stephanie von Buchau

People who hate the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber will find nothing in the theatrical concert *Music of the Night* (Golden Gate Theatre) to change their low opinion, and much to reinforce it. Those with no strong feelings either way should enjoy this glitzy, two-plus-hours of bleeding chunks from *Evita*, *Cats*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Sunset Boulevard*.

Anyone, however, who admires Lloyd Webber, as I do, will find the entire evening provocative, perplexing, thrilling and maddening by turns. The vulgarization of Lloyd Webber's music by succeeding road shows of *Cats*, *Evita*, and stand-up concerts such as *Music of the Night*, cannot be blamed solely on producers, marketing forces or whatever. Michael Walsh, Lloyd Webber's biographer, informs me that the maestro himself approves of the overamplification, tawdry dance numbers and coarse instrumental arrangements of his music.

Part of Lloyd Webber's phenomenal box-office success over the last quarter century is based on the middle-brow, flossy overkill that his associates execute with both eyes fixed on the public's pocketbook. But that same commercialism accounts for Lloyd Webber's low standing with serious music critics, and makes defending his genuine lyric achievement increasingly difficult. A concert like *Music of the Night* is aimed at the lowest common denominator of the theater-going public: people who think Las Vegas is the last word in showmanship.

And yet. For all its cheapo lighting effects, the chorus girls who look deformed in the cheesy



Pump Up the Volume: The Ensemble in a musical number from Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Music of the Night*.

baby-doll dresses, the pick-up orchestra with the reeds playing out of tune and the first trumpet blaring, and tasteless arrangements of the maestro's best songs, I was not bored for one minute. There was just too much going on that required serious concentration. I can't imagine, for instance, what possessed the arrangers to treat the hilarious bel canto parody, "Think of Me," from *Phantom of the Opera*, as a serious romantic ballad, sung by a tremulous Kathie Lee look-alike. No wonder critics accuse Lloyd Webber of being shallow.

I have no idea what a person who doesn't already know the music of Lloyd Webber would get out of a show like *Music of the Night*, but for the connoisseur, there are surprises both charming and terrible. Take the orchestral numbers (please). Despite the "through composed" nature of his

mature shows, Lloyd Webber is literally a song writer, not an opera composer. (That doesn't keep *Aspects of Love* from being the most appealing opera written in the last 20 years.) The songs — beautiful, haunting, melodic — do not lend themselves to garish instrumental arrangements.

Vocal arranger David Loud has made a fatal error in slowing the tempos for much of the *Evita* section; genuine Latin rhythms that underlie each of the show's songs — bossa nova, rumba, samba, tango, beguine — curdle at draggy speeds. *Evita*'s most sinuous number, the duet "I'd Be Surprisingly

Good for You," is not even included in *Music of the Night*. Still, Janet Metz, a Brooklyn girl with a belting style similar to Patti LuPone's, but with a finer voice, was superb in "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina," and later in showstoppers from *Cats* ("Memory") and *Sunset Boulevard* ("With One Look").

Loud's attempt to rearrange Norma Desmond's hysterical "As If We Never Said Goodbye" as a trio fails miserably, but his interweaving of "Love Changes Everything" (*Aspects of Love*), "Unexpected Song" (*Song & Dance*), and "I Don't Know How to Love

Him" (*Jesus Christ Superstar*) was masterful, the evening's musical highlight, proving that there is more to Lloyd Webber than crashing chandeliers and dancing cats. It was also the best sung segment, with Metz particularly effective in Bernadette Peters' anthem, "Unexpected Song." On the other hand, whoever thought it was a good idea to combine music from *Superstar* with Lloyd Webber's *Requiem* ("Pie Jesu" and "Hosanna") supplied ammunition for those who claim the composer is, among his other sins, a blasphemer.

When the *Music of the Night* tour was first announced, Colm Wilkinson (*Les Miserables*) was supposed to be the headliner, but somehow we got Kevin Gray, a K-Mart Antonio Banderas, with money high notes (which he holds onto for dear life in an overwrought, not very moving "Gethsemane") and a mannered delivery that defuses the sensuality of the Phantom's eponymous "Music of the Night." Gray was effective as Che Guevara (in *Evita*), an ironic role that fits his attitude better than the Phantom's hyper-romanticism. Gray's chief contribution was to remind us how fabulous headliners Sarah Brightman and Michael Crawford were in the last two incarnations of this Lloyd Webber road-show concert. ▼

Music of the Night continues at the Golden Gate Theatre through April 7. Call 776-1999 for tickets and information.

CABARET

Comfortable Despair

by Chad Jones

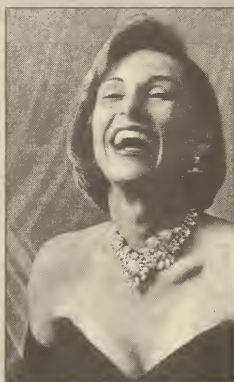
A disarming performer with a penchant for heart-twisting sad songs, Amanda McBroom is a cabaret star of the highest order. Her current gig at the Fairmont's New Orleans Room provides a suitably intimate venue in which to become immersed in the singer's polished, heartfelt and not infrequently humorous oeuvre.

Most famous as the writer of the mega-hit "The Rose," McBroom has chosen the Fairmont show to highlight some of her other, equally poignant, compositions. There isn't a finer or more affecting song about longing than McBroom's "Ship in a Bottle," and the lingering pain of a tortured mother-daughter relationship could not be more achingly conveyed than in the singer-songwriter's "The Portrait." Both are guaranteed tear-jerkers.

The show does, mercifully, have its lighter moments. A fond remembrance of the teenage McBroom's excursions to Mexico (she grew up in a small Texas bordertown) is a howl, and a sassy attempt to make peace with aging called "I'll Never Do That Again" keeps the show from sinking into a melancholy abyss.

McBroom is best at what she calls "little movies for the ears." Accompanist Joel Silberman provides the deftly grandiloquent musical groundwork on which McBroom builds emotionally fraught explorations of loss, desire, pain and, as one of her lyrics puts it, "comfortable despair." ▼

Amanda McBroom appears at the New Orleans Room through March 23. Call 772-5259 for information.



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Mark Doty

Continued from cover

I needed to make a prose book for a number of reasons. One, I couldn't write poems. It was as if I felt too much. I had too much to say, and that weight, that pressure, would shatter the container of a poem. Also, I wanted a larger kind of architecture to think about Wally's dying, about loss in general, about living through the loss of what one loves. I wanted room to wander in a way that I don't always feel poems allow me.

"Certainly many of us feel pressure to be the keepers of the stories. In a time of such endless disappearance, who is to do the work of remembering?"

The same day I received Heaven's Coast, I also received Fenton Johnson's book about his lover's death, and it struck me that the AIDS memoir is definitely becoming a part of our — the literary canon. I was curious if you had any thoughts on this — its import for gay writing and writers?

Certainly many of us feel that pressure to be the keepers of the stories. In a time of such endless disappearance, who is to do the work of remembering? So one of the things that writers feel com-

pelled to do is to capture what we can of the stories before they vanish, as those actors in the stories have vanished.

When else — I suppose maybe in WWI — has there been a cultural experience of a great rupture and the disappearance of a generation or generations? This seems like one of those moments when there's a particular work for literature to do.

I hope that AIDS writing can keep us awake, can make us look at all that variety, all that humanity. You hear people talk about being tired of AIDS, tired of the

struggle, and God, you'd have to be a saint not to be tired of it. But I also believe that one of the things our artists can do is help us keep our eyes open.

Early in the book you state that "AIDS makes things more intensely what they already are," which is a theme that runs throughout, especially as it pertains to Wally. But I was wondering what you discovered Mark Doty was like, so intensified?

One thing that was intensified for me immediately was my lack of

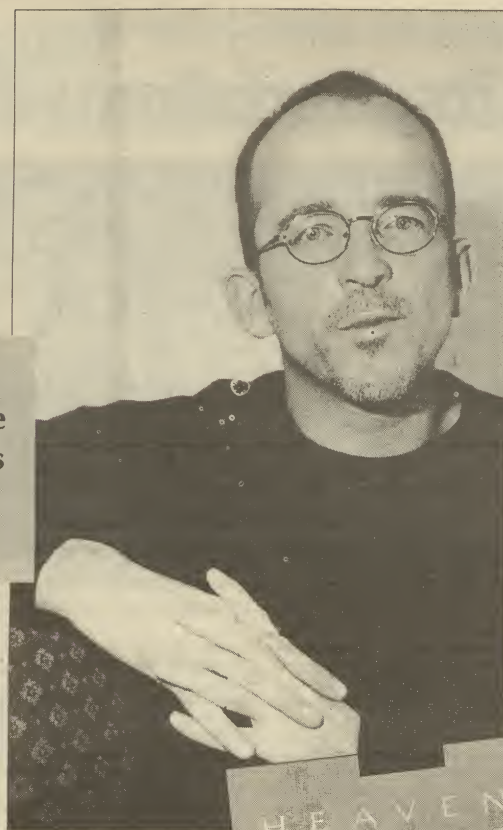


Photo: Rick Gerhardt

faith in the future, my struggle with the idea of ongoingness. I think that's probably true of lots of people who grew up in the shadow of one potential apocalypse after another. It's hard to have that sense of continuation. So, in a way, Wally's illness intensified for me a kind of interior struggle that had been going on all the time.

You write very movingly about your conflicts regarding your friend Lynda's life and death, and at one point you comment, "How vain and self-indulgent self-destructiveness looks in the face of AIDS!" Do you think the epidemic has somehow inured us to other forms of death, especially ones where people seem, to some extent, to have chosen it?

I was so shocked when Lynda died that people died in things like automobile accidents. Just as since then, I've been shocked when people I've known have been lost to cancer or other causes, because living in the wave of that crisis [AIDS], you do stop seeing any other sort of death.

Has it "inured" us to them?

Well, it definitely turned our focus in a different direction, and it calls into question my tolerance for self-inflicted losses. Given that one sees brave person after brave person struggling with what he or she can't control, it's hard to look at something where the per-

son who died may have had a choice.

Confusing though...because my friend's self-destructiveness, her alcoholism, we could say that that's a disease, too. But a disease of a different nature.

At several junctures you propose reasons why you've been driven to write the book — to tell the stories of the dead, to reveal the "dark sparkle" of death, etc. But toward the end, you simply say, "To make something familiar is to make it bearable." Is Heaven's Coast what ultimately made Wally's death somehow "bearable"?

I think in many ways that's true — that when we tell the story of our experience, when we give shape to it, then it exists at least this much outside of ourselves. And therefore, you can stand back from it, look at it, give it to someone else. Therefore, it has a life that goes on independently of you.

Being able to, as it were, craft the story of my life and the story of my life with Wally...yes, it helped me to survive. On the other hand, it doesn't make things better; it doesn't make it all right, and yet, there's a way in which telling the story is an act of participation in the stories of the world and connects our individual ones to those ongoing stories, that great confluence of narratives. In that way it is consoling to have told it.

I was enchanted by how you wrote about falling in love again with Wally after he died, that on some level your relationship was stronger, more magical, than it had ever been. Now he's been gone for a little over two years, and I can't help but be nosy and ask if you still feel the same way, or if he's somewhat less of a presence in your life now, receded a bit.

Just after he died — not long after he died — I did have that sense of being in love with him again, in part because we had been through that extraordinarily intimate experi-

ence together, and in part because he had been sick for so long that Wally limited, Wally debilitated, had occupied so much of my attention that I couldn't see around that. I started to have trouble remembering what he looked like and how he was when he could walk, when he wasn't confined to his bed.

After his death all that came flooding back to me very intensely. I did feel enraptured with him again. I feel now that I'll never stop loving him, but I'm not exactly in love with him in the same way. And that has to do with the ways in which now it's more like married love. He always in some way stands next to me or is inside my head looking out at the world, because after a dozen years with somebody, your way of seeing, your way of speaking, your whole frame of reference, is adjusted.

So Wally is a part of my subjectivity, a part of who I am, and always will be. Yet now I have the sense that that relationship resides more firmly in the past, and while his presence is triggered for me in objects, moments of perception, this book, more of my attention is turning toward the present and the future. One of the changes that I think happens after that first year is that gradually the future looks like something you want to be in. ▼

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Keith Curran's *Walking the Dead* Stiff Stuff

by Jerry Metzger

To most people, changing gender involves lots of complicated questions. For example, does switching gender mean that one discards an identity, or merely accepts another one? Is the desire to change gender a response to a psychological urge or a biological one? And, of course, there's the big metaphysical number, why would nature put someone in the position of feeling like they want to be what they are not? Such is the stuff of Keith Curran's well-meaning but decidedly inscrutable *Walking the Dead*, which opened last week at Theatre Rhinoceros.

After living as an out lesbian, Veronica Tass (Mary Shaw) comes to the conclusion that she is a man living in a woman's body and that she wants to make a change. It is not an easy decision,

but with the help of her lover, Maya (Gina Fields), and her gay best friend, Chess (Jeff Bear), she proceeds, eventually becoming Homer. Veronica/Homer also has a mother (Connie Matson), a complicated character who is loving toward Veronica, but unaccepting of Homer.

Like Jack Heifner's *Heartbreak* at the New Conservatory Theatre, *Walking the Dead* is a memory play. It unfolds from the point of view of friends and family who have gathered together after Veronica/Homer's death. But where Heifner's work is tightly focused and specific in its intentions, Curran's play is a sprawling mish-mash of guesses, hunches and presumptions. The non-linear manner in which it unfolds may impress some, but others will find it headache-inducing.

It is obvious from the get-go that Curran wants to be shocking

and moving, explore stereotypes, self-definition and self-actualization. He wants to be serious and funny, sexy yet poignant, conventional yet revolutionary. Unfortunately, *Walking the Dead* really isn't any of these things because it isn't much of a play. Instead of plot and drama, we get a jumble of ideas presented in no particular order, and instead of fully developed characters, we get larvae, proto-characters who waste a lot of time in monologues explaining why they behave in a certain manner. Even when the speeches are interesting, they don't shed light on the story, such as it is.

To Curran's credit, there are plenty of funny lines and situations. Still, the comedy wears thin quickly, and when Curran gets serious—dead serious—the play never coalesces into anything significant.

Director Reid Davis deserves



Photo: Steve Savage

Mary Shaw and Gina Fields in *Walking the Dead*.

FILM

Devil Woman

by Gary Morris

Film noir is usually associated with dark, claustrophobic interiors that reflect the unsettled psychological states of the film's characters. Jacques Tourneur's seminal *Out of the Past* (1949) defies this tradition with extensive location shooting in Lake Tahoe and Mexico, but the result is equally claustrophobic. The darkness of *Out of the Past* is manifested by its characters — Robert Mitchum as a principled, world-weary private investigator, Kirk Douglas as a vicious but urbane gangster, and Jane Greer as one of the genre's most cold-blooded femme fatales.

Greer plays Douglas' treacherous moll, who shoots him and flees to Mexico with \$40,000 of his money. Mitchum is hired to track her down, but, inevitably, falls in love with her in the process. After a brief affair, she kills Mitchum's partner and returns to Douglas, who entreats her to join forces to betray Mitchum.

Like other deadly females in film noir — Peggy Cummins in



Jane Greer and Robert Mitchum in *Out of the Past*.

Gun Crazy, Ann Savage in *Detour* — Greer's character embodies postwar fears that women might abandon the domestic sphere, causing all manner of social mayhem. She is the culmination of the self-consumed, anti-domestic, anti-social female evoked by Barbara Stanwyck in *Double Indemnity* and Gene Tierney in *Leave*

Her to Heaven, a character so lacking in conscience that even the most powerful men in her midst are incapable of comprehending or controlling her. ▼

Out of the Past plays with *Nightfall* at the Roxie Cinema Saturday, March 23. For information, call 863-1087.

kudos for his stalwart attempt to confer unity on this haphazard plan. He puts the characters through their paces with remarkable fluidity, and with terrific assistance from lighting designer Michelle D'Angelo, he separates Curran's many scenes so effectively that the jumbled narrative

almost starts to make sense. But, alas, it will take more than these considerable efforts to turn this sow's ear into a silk purse. ▼

Walking the Dead continues at Theatre Rhino through April 13. Call 861-5079 for tickets and information.

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Magnuson's *Luv Show*: The Beauty of Trash Lounge Lizard

by John Blanco

Ann Magnuson has acted in movies (*Before and After*), a sitcom (*Anything But Love*), and theater (*Four Dogs and a Bone*). She has been a performance artist and a monologist. She has sung in an indie rock band (Bongwater) and has even written rock criticism. You could call her a dilettante, but that implies dabbling, and Magnuson never dabbles. Whatever the

endeavor, Magnuson brings to it passion and intelligence—as well as the humor and flamboyance of a self-proclaimed theater queen.

Magnuson's current project befits such a queen. *The Luv Show*, her CD from last year, is a collection of songs chronicling the travails of a Neely O'Hara-ish singer who seeks stardom in Hollywood but finds only sex, drugs and the devil. *The Luv Show* provides laughs as it deconstructs the Hollywood star myth as reflected in

Jacqueline Susann novels and '60s B-movies. As a listening experience, it comes up short. But then maybe that's because Magnuson conceived *The Luv Show* as a theatrical experience, replete with wig and costume changes, go-go dancers and on-stage breakdowns, which is exactly how she has been staging it in New York and L.A.

Magnuson is bringing her *Luv* extravaganza to San Francisco on March 24. I talked to her recently by phone from L.A. about the upcoming show and other artistic pursuits.

John Blanco: Like *Miss Pussy Pants*, the heroine of *The Luv Show*, you moved to Hollywood as a young woman to make a career for yourself in the entertainment industry. Is the story even the slightest bit autobiographical?

Magnuson: It is in that I know trying to eke out a living in show business makes for a very tenuous existence. You're always on the edge wondering whether or not you will ever be employed again. So some of it is autobiographical. Although I have to say most of it isn't.

Has *The Luv Show* changed since you began performing it last year?

We added a big opening number, because I feel every show needs a big opening number. I hesitate to say what it is because it's very important for people to be surprised. But it definitely begins us down that dingy yellow brick road.



Photo: Rocky Schenck

Ann Magnuson mines the spirit of '60s trash in *The Luv Show*.

The *Luv Show* is like a perverted Judy Garland musical, isn't it?

Oh yeah. When I was growing up, all those MGM musicals had a big impact on me. I was always dazzled by Judy Garland and Fred Astaire and Gene Kelly.

Yet you became a rock 'n' roll chick?

Yeah, by high school I was hanging out with all the glitter-hippie radicals in the smoking area listening to Bowie. But Bowie was just a natural extension of my love of theater. I'm really just a big theater queen.

That's especially true of your early, pre-Bongwater bands in the '80s. Tell me about some of those.

Oh, I had a whole succession of bands when I was running Club 57 in New York. Sometimes we would put bands together just for one night. We had a band for the Rites of Spring bacchanal, which was called Pulsalama. Then I had a folk band for a while called Bleaker Street Incident. Our theme song was "I Doubt It." Then I created a Russian pop star

character called Enushka. The band was Enushka and Polska 88. We gave out free potatoes and beets at the door for those shows.

Then came Bongwater. You were touring and releasing albums with Bongwater at the same time you were starring in movies and doing *Anything But Love*. Do you ever wish you had concentrated your energies on just music or acting?

I never wish that I had concentrated on acting exclusively, because that's such a hit or miss proposition. The thing is, it's not a matter of the amount of concentration you put into it, it's the amount of hustling and sheer will power you must have to succeed. You must do anything and everything to get there. It's nothing noble on my part. I'm just too lazy. I have these bursts of energy, but I'm not able to withstand the amount of shit you have to go through.

I imagine that landing the part of the grieving mother in *Before and After* was a big break for you considering that you've done mainly comedic roles in the past. Was doing a crying scene with Meryl Streep an intimidating experience?

I was fairly terrified. But she's very professional and available to you as an actress. She was remarkable to work with, really. After a scene with her, I thought, you know, I'm really out of my league here. But then again, I'd like to see her get up on stage and sing "Miss Pussy Pants."

Did your experience with *Anything But Love* sour you on TV?

Oh, not at all. What was most frustrating for me was that I wanted to do more, but the nature of television is that it's formula. But I would like to get back on TV in something that I could have a bigger part in. I've got something brewing, but it's very hard to get something on the air that isn't pap.

A strange little record like this [*The Luv Show*] tends to fall through the cracks.

Geffen never knew what to make of it. But then I think it's almost a coup it got made and released on a major label at all. So I'm not crying into my pillow. ▼

Ann Magnuson performs *The Luv Show* at The Great American Music Hall on March 24 at 8 p.m.

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A Chat with Echobelly's Debbie Smith

Undermining the Brit-Pop Patriarchy

by Adrian Roberts

As with anything in our culture, the world of alternative rock is governed by trends. A good example is Brit-pop, which has been responsible for unleashing a bevy of snotty lads who have invaded our shores with their own brand of sharp, guitar-oriented pop music. Bands such as Blur, Oasis, and Menswear have all found success, despite the fact that there is nothing new about straight white guys from England.

Enterprising gal

Debbie's rock 'n' roll inspiration came at an early age. "When I saw Suzi Quatro on *Top of the Pops*, all dressed up in leather, playing her bass, I thought, 'Yup, that's the job for me!' So I bought myself a guitar and a chord book. At the time, I had just discovered punk rock, and the punk dictate was, 'It's easy—go and do it.' So I sat in my bedroom and didn't come out until I had learned how to play every song on my Siouxsie & the Banshees album.

are cool, look good, and play well. If I'm going to be standing up there as a representative of the lesbian nation, I'm going to look fine doing it."

Indeed, the whole band looks fine, so fine in fact that their look landed them in the pages of *Elle* magazine last year. "We're very much aware that we're creating a look," said Debbie. "Ya know, it's sort of rude boy-mod-smartish. I mean, if we look good, great! But do we *sound* good? What we sound like is obviously more important."

hold wire wrapped around his neck. He was wearing pantyhose and he had an orange stuffed in his mouth. Ya know, autoeroticism gone horribly wrong."

Hardly typical subject matter for a rock band, it is par for the course for Echobelly. Challenging the patriarchal status quo seems to be part of what these British popsters are all about, and Debbie obviously relishes her role as one of the few black dykes in rock music today. "It is strange if you think

about it," she mused. "I suppose I should feel pretty alienated, 'cause it's just not done, is it? I mean, being an out black lesbian in this business. But I don't give a fuck, basically. I'm out and I'm doing it. If you don't like it, go away." ▼

See Echobelly at The Fillmore Sunday, March 24, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call 346-6000.



Echobelly: Andy, Debbie, Sonya, and Glenn

Enter Echobelly, London's multicultural, polysexual answer to Brit-pop. Indian vocalist Sonya Aurora Madan writes intelligent, often feminist lyrics to accompany Swede Glenn Johansson's bright, chiming pop songs. Bassist James Harris and drummer Andy Henderson form the rhythm section, and Debbie Smith, the band's black lesbian guitarist, provides Echobelly's sonic crunch.

I chatted with Debbie one day last November during the band's tour stop here in San Francisco, and discovered that she was not only friendly but quite forthright about Echobelly's role in contemporary pop music. When asked if the band was consciously trying to undermine the rock 'n' roll patriarchy, a devious grin spread across the 27-year-old guitarist's face. "I don't think Echobelly was originally set up to do that. But, yes! Why the hell not? Why should it just be a traditional white boys' playing area? Why can't girls come into it? Or black people, or people of varying sexualities?"

My fingers suffered permanent damage because of that!"

She became an accomplished guitarist, however, and eventually landed a steady gig playing with Curve in the early '90s. When that band dissolved in 1993, Debbie suddenly found herself without a job. She got lucky when a temporary position as guitarist with Echobelly turned into full-time.

"Glenn fell over and broke his arm two weeks before their first British tour," explained Debbie. "So they asked if I could fill in for that tour. Then we did the first album straight afterwards, and it was like, 'Okay, you're in the band.' It's never actually been said, but they haven't asked me to leave yet either!"

As we sat in her hotel room chatting, I took note of her sharp suit jacket and boyish appearance and asked if she considered herself butch. "That is a kind of persona that I have cultivated for myself," she said. "I don't know why. It looks great, though! I mean, that's what you want to see when you see a band: people who

Smart songs

What they sound like is something akin to Blondie meets the Smiths. In fact, upon the release of their 1994 debut record, *Everyone's Got One*, the band was lumped in with a scene the British music press was calling "The New Wave of New Wave." "We never felt part of any scene," Debbie stressed. "I mean, we might like and be influenced by some new wave music, but we never thought, 'We're going to take these influences and enlighten a new generation about early '80s pop music.' That wasn't our intention. Our intention was always just to get up there and play smart songs."

And that is exactly what they do. One of their smartest is "Pantyhose and Roses," from their recent album, *On*. "It was inspired by the death of a member of British Parliament, Stephen Milligan," Debbie explained. "He was found dead with some house-

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 Too tired from New Year's celebration to try to talk. But I had Wells Fargo auto teller long enough to watch your sexy blk spandex pants get into Honda w/ breakfast. **9004.**

Into Yoga. Lost Your Phone Number
 My headline in ad you saw. Friendship based on equal trust and respect. Me 42, WM, did not have voice message on line. Please call back. Want to talk to you. Thanks a lot. (Asian) **9005.**

Lone Star Sun 2/25
 Enjoyed watching you, but I had to pool. Sorry we didn't get to trade numbers. Would like a private game. **9006.**

Khan Phua 2/18
 Your handsome, Asian dining w/ friend. Me: mature, grey hr, also dining w/ friend. Eyes met across the room like we saw each other. **9008.**

Sat Feb 22, 1 PM Near Cala
On 18th Street
 You: short drk hair, w/ new/grown beard, blk jacket/leather sleeves, going toward Castro. Me: drk hair, mustache, blk flight jacket. We looked back several times. Let's meet. **9009.**

1/98-EB-JM Park
 n the shadows of the tree, we talked of Monterey Market. Madagas car and The Lion was dead and the living dog had taken over P.D. James would like more! Call me. **9010.**

31 Balboa Bus, 2/23 Around
7:30 PM
 You were carrying a miniature rose bush. I was standing behind you and ask you about your plant. I was taken by your beautiful eyes. Me: 5'10", 160#, brn/blu, mustache and beard. I would like to know you. Wanna have coffee? **9011.**

Roman?
 Was that you driving down Dolores 3/2 friend? I was in green Toyota w/ a friend. Whoever you are, you're cute. Call me. **9101.**

Symphony Fantastique
Sat Mar 2
 You in jacket/bo, seen in green shirt & black jeans. Before concert we exchanged glances & smiles across lobby. You left briefly, returned wearing glasses. Saw each other at intermission, but you were w/ someone. Would like to talk. **9102.**

Stud 1/31, Jackie Spokes
 How much worse will it get: you guys were pretty bad that night. But I must admit a lot of fun. Want to go to a party? Give me a call. **9104.**

You: Handsome GWM on
J-Church, 2/28 5PM
 You had an SF Center shopping bag and we kept looking at each other. Me: GWM, 5'8", hairy lower lip, beret. I kicked myself for not saying hello. I'd love to go out w/ you. Or at least to talk. Call me. Mark. **9105.**

Diamond Hts-Leap Day
 Met you at Diamond Hts. shopping center 2/29. Missed you 1/2 hour later. I was late. Plz call. I can come to see you in San Mateo. Mason. **9106.**

3/1 about 1PM
 U dark hair, stache, cowboy boots. U passed Castro Theatre. I whistled. U turned, said "Thanks." I said, "You're a handsome man." Continued up Castro. Me: tall, drk hair, stache, blue shirt, down vest, levis. Like to pursue this. Lunch, drink? **9107.**

Pondium 1/27 Sat Night
 We exchanged glances across the crowded room and lifted our drinks in recognition. You blk back pack, goatee w/ a warm enchanting smile. Me: patterned vest, enchanted. **9122.**

Louie's Barber Shop
 Jimmy, I was hanging beard trim. You waited patiently, days later, I received your hello message. Plz call. **9123.**

Yellow VW At 20th/Noe Fri
3/1 5:15PM
 We were lost. You helped me (blonde, t-shirt, jeans, grey Honda). I should have asked your name and let's talk. **9108.**

Hot-n-Hunky Sat 3/8
 You in shorts w/ a raski sticking out of your backpack. Blond hair w/ a smile that just melted me. I was w/ a friend & could only smile back & give goodbye. Please call. **9201.**

Trader Joes 2/24 Emeryville
 Couldn't take my eyes off you. Followed you from pasta to cheese. You: Drk hr, 6' 6", handsome, cute smile. Me: grey hr, handsome. Shy but managed to say "Never get out of here for under \$100." Call me. **9007.**

Boston Market 3/3 2PM
 You: large, husky man at back counter table, glasses (green jacket), big tan boots. Me: glasses, blue dress shirt, tie, brown hair. We kept looking at each other at the same time. Several times. I looked at my watch before you left. Must meet you!! **9103.**

John At The Eagle
 We met Sunday 3/3. You were wearing blk cap, sleeveless shirt. I'm Dominic. You thought you were too old. I thought you were perfect. Enjoyed your personality & kiss. Lost #. Call me. **9202.**

Van Ness & Turk, Evening of
2/28
 You: drk hair, goatee, very cute. Me: tall shoulder length brunette. Smiled while waiting to cross Van Ness. Followed me into A Clean Well Lighted Place for Books, then disappeared. You're like to meet. Please call. **9203.**

1 California Bus 3/7, 5:10PM
 Sat together in back seat. You: gldng, reading papers, goatee, but low hair. Me: hairy, balding, goatee, gray slacks, blue blazer. We kept looking at each other, but I was too shy to say anything but no time. Would like to see you again. call me. **9204.**

BART To Colma, Mon Nite,
10:30, 3/11
 You: cute Asian, tan jacket, knapsack. Me: tall blond guy, blk jacket, newspapers. We exchanged glances at Powell (U sitting against pole) on train, after I got off at Glen Park. **9205.**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP M-M

One Regular Guy Seeks Another
 GWM, 24, blk/bl, slim, attractive, professional, HIV+. Prefer coffee houses to bars. Looking to connect with mature, prof, handsome, articulate man. You should be self-secure, open to different opinions, able to communicate your own. Fetishes and fantasies neg. **9014.**

In Retirement But Not Sedentary
 HIV+, likes good food & vodka. Intelligent conversation occasional quiet bars and friendship, music, theatre. **9017.**

Young Man Wanted
 GWM, late 40's, X-88, seeks young man for limited LTR w/ travel, housing, dinners. Prefer student or 88. Exceptional only considered. No \$\$. **9020.**

Seeking Lifemate/Companion
 In N. CA who would be interested in creating a home w/ a former resident. GWM, early 30's, 5'9", 140#, brn/blu, clean shaven, bottom, NS, Eclectic, intellectual, love animals, the arts, travel & massage. **9021.**

Humor, Creative, Uninhibited
 Relationship potential interests? Let's meet! Very attractive, masculine, creative prof. GWM 40, 5'8", 140#, muscular, defined, slim mod hairy body, short beard, brn/bl, balding on top. HIV+. been very healthy. Jewish. Interested in NS, prof. GWM, 38-50, who's stable in shape, financially secure, enjoys laughing, romance, creative safe sex, nudity, spirituality, drives, beach, travel, cooking, arts, friends, Lucy, Call. **9023.**

Kaikio 6
 GWM, 30, very cute, intelligent, caring, seeks cute Japanese GWM, 21-37, for friendship or more. Interested in modern rock, movies, cooking, dancing, and romantic evenings. Deito Shiyuu. **9024.**

Santa Rosa Area Man To Man
 Seeking 30yo, WM, 6'1", 170#, hairy chested, mustache, goatee, muscular, masculine, in shape, horny, athletic, down to earth country boy, seeks man who is similar for adventure, exploring, dating. 26-40yo. **9205.**

Huge Muscular Top Wanted
 Handsome, athletic, muscular, in shape. GWM, 35, 5'10", 185#, blk/dr, prof. Seeks tall, muscular, handsome, be athletic, quick, outgoing and fun. **9022.**

Sensuous Scrap Seeks Muscular Man
 Me: Asian/Pacific Islander, 38, 5'10", 180#, 88, blk hair, smooth olive skin, financially independent. You: 88, NS, top, well hung, 28-45, any race. Only genuine guys who are into 88 need response. Have gone beyond drugs & addictions. Smoking OK. **9030.**

Experimental Ad
 Your emotional-mental profile is more valuable than your age and physical attributes. All races welcome. Try me: 48yo, GWM, 5'10", 160#, HIV-, SF resident. **9026.**

Poet Of The Soul
 Are you a shooting star, traveling alone? I'm a poet of the soul, prof, HIV+, healthy, passionate, bottom, looking not just for sex or a couple, but love without limits. Race is not important, although I'm a GWM my heart is latino y hablo espanol. You have gone beyond drugs & addictions. Smoking OK. **9027.**

HV: Craft Person Or Artist A+
 Wanted for friendship & the sharing of creative interests, skill level important. Me: 38, 5'9", 158#, GWM, masculine. You: thin to ave build, w/ strong artistic interests. Anything else is open. **9019.**

A Positive Romance
 Gldng, prof, HIV+, healthy, 41yo, 5'8", 155#, br/bl, trim, goatee, looking for very masculine, romantic guy, 30-42, who enjoys all kinds of music, dancing (especially 2-step), romantic dinners, movies & working out, who's ready for a good stable relationship. **9018.**

Looking For Redheads
25-45ish
 GWM nudist, 37, 6'2", 215#, drk hair, bl/grey eyes, very attractive. Love movies, books, music, cuddling, kissing, JO, 69, more than bottom. Really like redheads. Be h/w/ prop or reasonably so. Looking for more than a 1 nighter. **9109.**

E. Bay HIV+ Latin Top Wanted
 Prefer Capricorn or Virgo, who smokes. GWM, HIV+, 33, blk/bl, 180#, handsome widow in Concord area needs drk blk latino. **9018.**

Hopeful Romantic
 GWM, 42, 6', 185#, drk hair/eyes, masculine, considered handsome, hairy, good build, enjoys hiking, bike rides, sunsets at the beach, candlelight dinners, and long passionate kisses. I'm HIV+ but extremely healthy. You should be honest, stable, not scared of commitment and interested in a loving, nurturing relationship. **9029.**

Seeking E. Bay Masc 30's
Male, Ave, Thinning?
 6'+, big guy, not too tall, hairy, honest, likes all sports, beer, work-out, stay-in. Me: 6', 175#, pretty boy, not too mascy, not too fem, Southern, stable, friendly, easy going, cute 27yo. **9031.**

Japanese Tiger Seeks Top
 Handsome, young, 30's, hairy, Japanese born, 5'7", 140#, versatile, friendly, healthy. HIV+. seeks in stocky WM for monogamous relationship. **9032.**

Asian Seeks GWM
 Very handsome Filipino, 28yo, 5'10", 155#, very smooth body, likes to cuddle. Looking for GWM, 25-35 only, outgoing personality, mature, handsome, likes romantic evenings at home. Hung and hairy At+. **9034.**

Nice Guy Seeks Same
 Attractive HIV+, 5'8", 135#, stache, brn/blu, 43yo, quick witted, strong personality, enjoys going out, 25-35, staying at home. Good company & fantastically loyal. Seeks partner, apx 6', 165#, stache, total bottom, intense character, passionate, independent & fun loving. **9110.**

Seeking Sincerity In The City
 Me: 33yo, WM, brn/blu, 6'6", 197#, gldng, intgrt, creative, down to earth, intgrt. Nature, great sense of humor, like to smile, sincere. U: 6'0"/HWP any race, 28-40, character more imp't than looks. You do not need to be perfect because I'm not. **9111.**

Midwinter Stuff
 Shy, chubby, economically challenged bookworm seeks thin, chubby chasing, Shakespeare, starving actor who looks good in sword fights and in bed. **9015.**

Quasi-Sugar Daddy
Needs G/W/A Top
 For April, relocation to So CA resort home. Want live in lover/companion. Healthy HIV+. Beautiful house. You: 28-39, responsible. Drink, smoke OK. Love hot sex, good times. Let's care for each other. Me: submissive, generous GWM. **9112.**

Seeking Giant Husband
 GWM, 5'9", 190#, brn/hzl & stache. Seeks men over 6'5" for friendship or possible relationship. I am very honest, romantic, & sincere. I am not into bar scene, or like gay gardening, and goatees & cooking. **9114.**

GWM 30 HIV+, KS
 Looking for 40+, who loves kissing, cuddling, outings, home time, cooking, travel. Has short or willing to get hair cut short; stache, prefer light smoke & drink. ND. Sex not important. **9115.**

Seek Young Bl Mexican Top
 Discrete, nice WM, 48 seeks younger, speaking Spanish, Mexican guy for regular meetings. Sale sex. No \$. ND. **9116.**

Beautiful Quality Asian Top
 Honest, loving, caring, 26yo, 5'100#, 6'1/2 uncult, HIV+, seeking GWM 18-36, HIV-, clean shaven, NS, ND, bottom. **9117.**

Just The Average Nice Guy
 GWM, 30, 6', 150#, into long walks w/dog. Down to earth, HIV+, good health seeks GWM. No bull shit. Just a real guy for who knows. Let's see. **9118.**

Gdng GWM
 6', 170#, 48yo, br/bl, HIV-, in shape, looking for masc, stocky-built, Asian/Hispanic (5'5"-5'9"). Looking for LTR w/sincere guy. **9119.**

Single and Still Alone?
 GWM seeking GWM 35-50, HIV- who would like to share in a monogamous relationship. If you're ready to quit cruising the bars and kick back and enjoy the good times. Give me a call. Smoker & social drinker OK. **9120.**

Intense Seeking
 W/H/M, 25-40, HIV+, Me: 26, 5'5" br/dr, 175, HM, HIV+, wants serious relation w/a top versatile. **9113.**

ISO Nice Guy
 GWM, 46, 6', 170#, balding, blue, mustache, goatee. HIV+. Seeks GWM/GLM, under 55, proportionally, I enjoy pop concerts, social activities and quiet times at home. I am self-employed and feel it's time to settle down w/ someone who is open and honest and who enjoys life. **9028.**

Athletic Asian
 Masculine, 48, 5'9", 150#, seeks similar, smooth, clean-shaven, gym-toned guy adventurous companion into hiking, workouts, sports, arts, ethnic foods, and intellectual pursuits. **9033.**

Doctor, Lawyer, Indian Chief
 Me: 5'7", 135#, GWM, HIV+, teacher into opera, theater, singing, movies, books, tech, travel. Gym-toned, blk/gm, oral bottom like to be in control. You are independent, bright, attractive, good shape, lean, w/sim interests and I tend to taller, smooth, easy/cuddlers, passionate. **9121.**

Gay Asian Male
 Attractive, 24, 5'6", looking for GWM, 24-29. Looks are important. Serious responses only. **9135.**

Unusual PWA
 5'11", 190#, bl/bl, long hair, pierced, tattoos, 35, KS in right leg only, seeks PWA's any race size etc for male bonding, sex, friendship, support (emotional & other), outings, & possible LTR w/ loving masculine man. Name and # please. **9124.**

Where are all the good men?
 8M, 40yo, 6'8", 265#, stocky built, adventurous, HIV-, bottom, ISO masculine adventurous top for LTR. We both are stable, sincere, caring, affectionate, romantic or just down right nasty. **9125.**

Seeking 35-50 GWM For LTR & Husband
 40, brn/blu, furry, HIV, looking for warm, cute, hung, 30-50, GWM for travel, laughing & roller coaster rides. Me: stable, lonely & cute, hung & looking for same. All interested respond. **9126.**

Viva La Sicks!
 Weird but cute Jedi Knight, 26, seeks others strong in the force. Me: 5'11", 180#, blonde, HIV-, (preferably) stocky top, under 40 w/baseball cap and goatee. Freaks welcome. **9128.**

Stuck In Fremont
 Adventurous outdoor type guy seeking cohort to explore hiking, camping, rafting, & other activities in search of adventure & poss romantic. You: msc, GWM, 25-35, athletic, stable, in shape, stable, independent & spontaneous, & stable. Me: masc GWM, 34, 5'9", 150#, br/dr, gldng X-Ono native who works to hard and needs time out. **9129.**

Seeking Masculine Top
 GWM, 24, 6'2", 165#, runner's build, smooth, brn/gr, straight acting, preppy, prof, romantic & sexually uninhibited. Seeks masc, top, being who is 25-40, in shape, fairly gldng & HIV+, for poss LTR (Leather +) but not required. **9130.**

Uniforms
 Looking to find others who are into CHP or police officers. Me: HIV+, tall, brn hair. You: 35-45, over 6', into leather & tall boots (that come up over the knee). **9131.**

Ready To Grow Up
& Settle Down?
 GWM, 41, 5'5", 130#, seeking GWM, weight comparable to me, 25-40, into long walks, quiet dinners & good movies. If you're tired of the bar scene & are ready to settle down I could be the one for you. Let's find out. **9132.**

Bl Spanish Male
 Prsnl, 27yo, Not into club/bar scene. Likes movies, photography, music, weight training. Mischievous by nature but discreet. Sks cinct, NS. Well built/pumped G/W/M w/similar interests to fun & whatever develops. **9133.**

Are U Out There?
 GWM, 44, 6', brn hair, stache, hunky body, reg gym goer, sks similar 26-39, for friendship. I enjoy cooking, fine wine, gym, outdoors, travel, Spain & Ital lang/culture. I have Catholic values. NS/ND. I like drink OK. Not looking for mirror image. **9134.**

Friends Or
 I'm a GWM, 37yo, 5'8", 140#, brn/bl, mustache, blond, chest. Seeking same. I like movies, theater, outdoors, quiet times and exploring new things. Very alone. **9206.**

International Model Sought
 E. Bay hunk seeks handsome San Leandro model w/ accent. You: educated, wary, confused about acting/honesty. We want you committed to cause but otherwise committable. **9207.**

Regular Guy Seeks Same
 Me: gldng, GWM, 40, 5'9", 145#, brn/bl, stache, HIV+, smooth bottom. You: gldng, GWM, 35+, weight prop to height, facial/body hair +, top. Us: interested in exploring LTR based on honesty, respect, trust, commitment, romance. **9208.**

Santa Rosa Man
 Masc kind nurturer, handsome, in shape, HIV-, lots to offer, not in gay world, seeks same 30-40's. Friends, buddyship, LTR & possible partnership in sex. **9127.**

S. Bay GWM Seeks Same
 I'm attractive, 38yo, 5'8", 140#, brn/blu, 3' in my 40's, but look like mid 30's. HIV-. You: GWM or GLM w/ the same type build & into reciprocal oral sex only & lots of cuddling. **9209.**

Chocolate But Not Vanilla
 Attractive WM, late 30's, 5'11", 160#, shirt hair, smooth bod, HIV- in shape, seeks similar in a man of color who's not afraid to experience & explore new territories & good times. No heavy drugs, bar/lays age 30-45. E. Bay a +. **9210.**

#1 Seeking Capt. Picard
 Me: 5'5", 170#, brn/blu, 26, HIV- HM. You: 25-40, W/H/M, top versatile. Must be able to exceed Warp 9. No time, spare anomalies. **9211.**

Gentleman's Gentleman
 Personal servant & houseboy enticed by this haughty, bossy english bachelor. Be clean-cut, personal. A little bit cheeky is OK, but there will be discipline. Uppr Height. **9212.**

Down To Earth GWM Seeks Romantic LTR
 For friendship & possible LTR. Me: GWM, 5'10", 165#, 32, brn/bl, romantic, fun loving, sincere, athletic & down to earth. You: GLM, tall, romantic, spiritual, athletic, & open to possible LTR. **9214.**

Tall, Slender, Mostly Top, Seeks Companion
 Me: GWM, nice looking, wear glasses, 38, mod hairy, HIV-. Like the outdoors, outdoors, exploring SF & lots of playful sex. Seeking 25-35, smooth-sh, guy w/ some same interests. I'm a top & open to possible LTR. **9215.**

Wanted: Loveable Top Man w/Guys & Glory!
 I'm 35, 6' med build, van dyke, prof art student, very energetic & unaffected. US similar: tough, solid, butch & hairy. No snobs, wimps or slob, please. **9215.**

Fat, Fifty & Fun
 You will like music, movies, quiet evenings at home. Love to cuddle. HIV-, 50 OK. Let's hear GWM. Let's get together? **9216.**

CR Bear
 Where are you? Looking for mature bear around 50 for friendship, possible LTR. We both are kind, gentle, 50ish, hairy, hairy, hairy, hairy, hairy, cut. I'm 5'9", 185#, brn, bald, beard. You: heavy set, gentle bear. **9217.**

Where are you?
 Attractive GWM looking for Mr. Right. Me: 26, blond, 5'8", 165#. We are both masculine, physically fit & HIV+. We are both in shape only. You: Top, Me: Bottom. You never know what may happen to us if you respond. **9218.**

SEEKING ADVENTURE M-M

Shy, Needs Help
 New to the scene, looking for someone to show me the way. Interested in friendship or I'm extremely affectionate, loving, & caring. Looking for someone, yet youthful in spirit, 6'3", 185#, down to earth. T-shirt & jeans kind of guy. Various interests in outdoors & other activities, cuddling & being cuddled. You be honest, good at heart & easy going. **9103.**

Petite Bottoms
 Seeking petite and thin, under 5'6", 120#, hairy, 40yo, into long walks. Me: GWM, 44, 5'9", 5'8", P balding, 175#, 7", neut. **9037.**

FFB Or Versatile Anal Erotic
 Very in shape young 50s, 5'10", 165#, into FF, dilgo, dilator depth, long and slow. **9035.**

Nudity & Eroticism
 Gym-toned attractive Asian, 35, 5'9", 150#, seeks gldng, 25-35, for erotic massage, body building, all fantasies incl b/d, striping, JO toys, exhibitionism & more. Give or take? **9038.**

Asian Men
 50yo seeks good time w/ understanding & compatible Asian male. One step at a time. I'll be on call for you. Layback or take charge. Evenings & weekends. See ya. **9043.**

Skin Bottoms For Daytime
 Muscular, well-defined Italian seeks daytime fuck buddy. You should be attractive, 35-45, NS, under 40 and an eager bottom. **9040.**

Dad Wants Some Ass
 I want to look, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, probe, spank & screw your hot and hairy butt. Me: attract, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250#, football player build. You: attract, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth, muscular, hairy and nice buns. **9041.**

Big Men
 If you are stocky, hefty, or pleasantly fat, then I'm interested in possibly meeting you. GWM, 5'11", 235#, 42yo, is looking for sexy big men for sensual encounters. **9051.**

Masc GLM Seeks Effeminate GWM
 Masc, GLM, 40, 6', 165#, dk hr & mustache, mod hairy. Looking for younger 21+, effeminate, GWM, GWM, who is very affectionate and enjoys giving/sle, sensual oral service to me all over. **9042.**

Jackstrap Wrestling
 Handsome, muscular, GWM seeks others turned on by erotic wrestling. Open to all fetishes and skill levels. No heavy rough housing. Just good, clean, sweaty fun. **9043.**

BarTalk are FREE!

You must use this form to submit ads. Use only the space provided.
Do not attach additional paper or text. Deadline for ads is Wednesday, 5 pm, for the following week's issue. New ads will run for 3 consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. We reserve the right to edit ads.

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Name _____ Day Phone No. _____ Eve. Phone No. _____
 Address _____ Apt No. _____
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Write your headline here: _____ (stop here)
 Write the rest of the ad here: _____ (stop here)

_____ (stop here)

Mail to: BarTalk, 395 Ninth St., SF CA 94103

BAR TALK

Sensual Hair-Haired Buddy
Wanted for physical connection at a tribal level. I'm 40, 5'8", 160, b/blu, HIV+, healthy (no gym), affectionate. Looking for other men of No. European extraction w/ facial & body hair to explore sexual/brotherly bonding. © 9054.

Double Suck Show
Hot, trashy, GWM, 25, wants to watch big cock get sucked by 2 guys at the same time. Seeks horny, porn-minded, cocksuckers who love to put on a show eating hard dick for sleazy, boneless, explosive, cum-squirting, face-splattering group suck performances. © 9057.

Top/Dad Sks Sub-Masc GWM Btm
60yo, br/bk, 5'8", 175#, aver looks/size, hilly/active, ass oriented, loves sex & romance and wants to make your butt feel good. © 9047.

Smooth Skin Filipino Bottom
37, 5'11", 180#, blk/bn, in Palo Alto seeks furry top or bottom bears. You be over 21 under 45. Mt. View to Redwood City preferred, will go to SF. Race unimportant. © 9045.

Built Bottom Seeks Hung Top
Lean and muscular bottom w/great mouth and ass wants to meet in-shape and hung tops for long passionate sessions. The bigger, the thicker, the better. Gym body at. © 9048.

Naked Fantasies
Cock, Doctor, Prison guard, Photographer, Strip poker, or you name it. Lean, masculine, WM, 40, looking to meet masculine guys w/light trim builds, 20 to 44. © 9049.

Excellent Bottom Seeks Big Stiff Cock
Sensuous, clean, fun, 36/62"/215, bld/blu seeking fun hung (7/12+) dude(s) to service. My deep throat and tight butt need a good plowing. Let's meet! © 9050.

Your Hot Butt/My Tongue
And long bushy moustache. A ride you'll never forget. Me: Hot, GWM, 38yo, 6', 160#, hairy. You: Hot and ready. © 9046.

European Travel Partner Wanted By GWM
Share expense 5'8", 130#, 64, up to one month. Italy, Greece, other possibilities. Sex would be good. I'm HIV+. Top. Speak some Italian, French, & have traveled in Europe. Broad interests. Healthy & active. Like art, opera, beaches, trains, backroads. © 9053.

Young Asian Bottom
19yo, GWM, 5'4", 130#, boyish looking, seeking handsome, masculine, in-shape, white or hispanic, muscle men to top me. Bring a friend to share my hot mouth and butt, if you can. You must be under 30, HIV-, ND, NS. © 9052.

Thickness Is My Weakness
If you're 5' to 6'9 and thick, masculine, BM, HM, AM, WM, call. No feds. Good humor man. Like music (I like control to). But no phoneys, be real. © 9056.

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is not worth risking your life over. Always play safe. Where a condom and never exchange bodily fluids. © SAFE.

Thick Leather Belts And Boots
Can I lick yours? I'm 33, boyish handsome, great body into bondage, leather, weightlifting belts, and boots. Cops, cowboys and guys with muscles especially welcome. © 9044.

Wanna Fight?
Boxing, wrestling naked, bar fights w/study guy. Be manly aggressive, twisted & over sexed like me. © 9136.

Got Naked
Let my fingers, lips and hot mouth make love to your body. Prefer men under 45 w/smooth to lightly hairy. You be drug and disease free. No reciprocation necessary. Call now for a new and erotic experience. © 9055.

Attractive Latino
Healthy, 32, 5'9", 155#, youthful, smooth body & face. NS/ND. Seeking: B/H/WM, 25-45, in good shape, who's interested in outdoor activities & other cultures, for poss LTR, please be honest & kind. © 9137.

Alameda
Seeking Young Arab/Latino/Blk male, 18-24, bottoms to enjoy cum w/30yo, Blk male, prof, 6'2", 235#, top. You're willing to be pampered. © 9138.

Kickback
Oral service for masc men under 45. Must be HIV- and disease free. ND. Days or evenings available. No reciprocation necessary. Why wait, call today & let me put a smile on your face. © 9139.

Bend Over & Touch Your Toes!
While I slide my tongue up your hot, sweet, hairy butt! GWM, 49, 6'2", 195#, seeks GWM, 30-45yo, w/hairy chest & butt to lick! Must be clean, HIV- & cut! © 9140.

Hairy Butts Drive Me Nuts
35, golfing, goatee, semi-muscular, fit, trim, outdoorsy guy-seeks male, HIV- guy w/full lips & average out for discreet sensual massage. Facial hair & NS at. © 9141.

British Gay Guy
40yo, 6'4", 175#, bl/bk/gray, stache, enjoys 2 stepin, cooking, old movies, reading, walking on the beach. ISO guy 30-40 w/similar interests. NS/ND. To hang out with. © 9142.

Compacted Bodybuilder Fuck Bottom Wanted
If you are a buffed huge bodybuilder that would like to be horseback ridden & pumped w/ an 8" pole then I'm you top. Would love to suck & ride you. You shoot. Handsome 34yo, blonde w/rock hard pole. © 9143.

Master/Trainer Needed
34yo, tall, in shape. VHM seeks piking, in shape, master/trainer to train me & expand my limits through bondage & discipline. Since I'm eager to serve. © 9145.

South Bay Spankings
Bend over & drop your shorts, bad boy! If you're 18-30 w/a smooth round ass, your big brother (39, WM 5'8", 210#) wants a crack at it. Also open to gloved finger or dildo play, if you are. © 9146.

Seeking Uncut George
You answered my ad "Seeking Uncut Fun" your phone # was cut off. You, 48yo, 5'9", mod hairy, Me: 6'4", 40yo, uncut, GWM. Let's try again. © 9147.

Bearded Submissive Husky Bear Cock
42, 5'9", 230#, brn/hd, mod hairy, very gilding seeks dominant masc real men for safe fun. Have a lover, not looking for another, just sex. Age, race, size, looks unimportant but older, hairy, blue color types at. Men of color w/attitudes are a turn on. © 9148.

So What? I Have An Aural Fixation
What can I say. French, Spanish, German accents turn me on. I melt to the lullaby sounds of Mediterranean and Asia & I totally lose it when young B' boys drop their slang. I'm a well-endowed, healthy, 42yo, GWM seeking hung, butch boys under 40. © 9149.

Hot Handsome Bl Oral Dominant Top
Looking for oral and anal submissive. Into dildo play, senior or young slender, petite only. No masc men. I am fit & insatiable. © 9151.

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Free Quality Massage
Strong, sensual, nurturing, full-body Swedish massage for nicely built young men. 18-32, 175-235, 43, gilding, masculine, sincere. Experienced. Taste. Because you'll enjoy it! © 9221.

2 Hot Men 2 Blow You
Man w/big dick wanted to satisfy our oral needs. w/no reciprocation or strings. UB well hung, good body, 28 & 35 love getting head. We're gilding, muscular & hungry. © 9220.

Feed Me
Sexy & Horny, 30ish, cum eater. Rude OK. HIV-, 5'8", 175#, Bay, weekdays only. Asian, Hispanic, or Black. Uncut only. © 9155.

Senior Citizen Wanted 85 Or Older
By straight WM, 55, HIV-, Teach me how to suck cock. I'll be your oral cock sucker or fuck my mouth, but you must agree to wear a rubber at all times, but will lick & suck your balls. © 9160.

Horny Asian
Cut GWM, 28, 5'8", 145#, HIV-, seeks 1 or group GWM under 40, in shape, disease/drug free, for hot sex. Let's have fun. © 9150.

Try Anything Once
5'4", WM, 54yo, stache, HIV-, seeking experienced hungry expert to worship my 7" mushroom cock. Also work my balls rough and hard! Play w/my little hairy ass. Expand all my limits w/a deep prostate massage. If you like, bring a friend, I live alone, my place. © 9036.

Serious Hot
Blond, cute, 40's, stallion accepting sexy, hot body & hormones. Into the best sex in SF. © 9219.

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Black Curly Hair? Blue Eyes?
Glasses? A munchable piece of meat! Into outstanding oral work done on you! Into leather, but not necessarily SM? Cut or uncut makes no difference. At least 5'10" in ht? Butch? Friendly? Definitely not a bike club member. If you qualify in at least 1/2 of the above, I could make you very happy. © 9224.

Crewcut Dude-New To SF
GWM, 6'2", brn/blu, clean-cut, masc, attractive, HIV-, versatile. Seeking similar type WM who is attractive, well endowed, under 30, in shape & not promiscuous. It could be good! © 9225.

Double Chocolate Treat
I need another hungry, masculine, mature, black brother to give a throat tube to my oral servicer. Please either live in or be free to travel the E. Bay on short notice. Deep throat experts needed also. Have aroma & X video. © 9226.

Cocksucker
GWM, 5'11", brn/bn, friendly, seeks male in shape, 18-35yo, GWM/HM, enjoy long sessions. My mouth all over your lips, shorts, cock & balls. Penisula OK. © 9227.

Sensual Sexy Fun
The objective is pleasure. I love to fuck. If you can handle it & like it, then let's do it! I'm 40yo, GWM, good body, good hair, great mind. UB: 25-35yo, clean shaven, good shape, no attitude. Call me. © 9228.

Black Or Latino Males
Let's get together for fun, romantic evenings. I'm 33, WM, drk hair & eyes, moustache, sedulous, nice face and toned body. © 9223.

Cocksucker Earns Your Load
Because w/his skill you can't wait to shoot your thick cream! Big loads are best loads: a day without a mouthful sucks sun/moon/stars! You have nothing to lose but your load & wherever BART goes, I go. Call now! © 9230.

Cream Me
Long hair, cute like to drink it. No hurry, slow sucks. Late 30's, fun, sexy, blue collar oriented. Older OK. Also licks young boy holes, only. © 9231.

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Do you dig, heavy macho intense dirty talk, but are sick of phone sex? Do you dig JO, but meet fuckers/suckers? Like buddy to buddy action, but meet top bottoms? Do you dig getting wasted, but meet HOT! Let's party at my place. (Oakland) late PM. © 9232.

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Very well-built, smooth, butch boy seeks masculine, muscular, handsome Dad for friendship & much more. I am eager to please, willing to give & learn. Dad is passionate, very handsome, hard-bodied & HIV- (I am). A butch Dad w/a masculine attitude gets me hard! © 9233.

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Sexy blond, nice butt wants to lick you all over then bend over, let you play w/my nice bubble butt & you open it for me. Know who you are & your endowment a +! © 9234.

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Wanted WM cut, w/ big clean feet. Get naked, relax and let a hot 50's sizzling tongue make you feel so good. © 9162.

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Str8/Bl BJs Free
For young, smooth WM, 18-21. Bi-curious? Safe, discreet, clean-cut WM has porn videos & massage machines. BB/Jocks a +. © 9242.

Asian Cocksucker
37, 5'11", 185#, blk short hair, brn eyes, smooth skin seeks South Americans, Latin, Puerto Ricans to suck off. Thick cocks a+. Be under 50 yet over 21. Let me swallow it all. SF to SJ. © 9243.

Handsome Athletic
Smooth skinned Asian Male wants to receive full body head to toe, long & firm oil massages on a regular basis. © 9244.

Hairy, Muscled, Naked, Frier
Strong, muscled, very hairy, experienced grappler, 5'8", 164#, seeks similar stud (near size, muscled, hairy) into bare-ass, no-holds-barred, rough-house submission matches, in private ring. Let's swap some sweat, stud! © 9058.

Foreplay
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Black & JO Addict Seeks Others
GAM, 5'8", 1

THIS WEEK



Photo: Tom Banich

Friday ►

Rex Chandler stars in **Making Porn**, a play about the gay pornography industry, at the Cable Car Theatre.

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

This Week
Bay Area Reporter
395 9th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before issue date.

Friday 22

Alive At the Edge:

"Field Notes from an Endangered Species," a solo performance and ceremony by Jamie McHugh. Thru 3/23 at 8pm. \$12. New College Theatre, 777 Valencia. 461-9479.

The Baby and the Bathwater

Paintings by Caitlin Mitchell-Dayton and Ruby Neri, reception tonight, 6pm. Fri.-Sun. thru 4/28. Victoria Room, 180 6th St. 255-0364.

Batman, no Robin

The High Risk Group in a dance performance about queer love, death, sex, drug abuse and the absent hero. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$6-10. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Cabaret

MCC/SF presents community

Albert Park

Performance about coming out as a queer Korean-American, a work-in-progress. \$5. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for the Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Sleater-Kinney

Dyke-grrrrr band from Olympia, Washington. 9pm. Epicenter, 475 Valencia. 431-2725.

Spirit of Dildo

A curio shop of over 50 dildos, reception tonight, 8pm. Thru 4/6. Build, 483 Guerrero. 863-3041.

Witness to the Self

"Testigo del Ser," first U.S. solo exhibition by Nahum B. Zenil, thru 7/1. Mexican Museum, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-0445.

Saturday 23

Bachathon

SF American Guild of Organists sponsors a marathon 6-hour Bach organ recital. Free, refreshments, donations to Project Open Hand accepted. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin. 431-5439.

Futura

Latino dance club presents *Recordando a Selena*, "Remembering Selena," a celebration of her life & music, one year later: videos, posters, DJs Rubin & Raymundo. \$10. 10pm-3am. 174 King. 665-6715.

Girl Jesus

Hard-rockin' dyke band from LA, with Aint and Acid King. 9pm. Nightbreak, 1821 Haight. 221-9008.

Girth & Mirth Club

Italian Dinner Party for chubby gay men and their admirers. 7pm. Call for info. 351-2846.

Iolanthe Lamplighters

Music Theatre performs Gilbert & Sullivan's operetta: flock of fairies challenge the peers of Parliament. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/31. \$19-23. Lindland Theatre, 175 Phelan. 277-0331.

It

Cynthia Bruckman portrays 20s starlet Clara Bow, the "It" Girl. Fri. & Sat. thru 3/31 at 8pm. \$8-10. Climate Theatre, 252 9th St. 978-2345.

Karaoke Night

Dance for women produced by Bay Area Career Women. \$12. 8:30pm-1am. Jelly's, Pier 50. 495-5393.

Male Models

Isabel Hegner's *Eye to Eye* on Mapplethorpe, Michael Wallin's *Black Sheep Boy*, more. \$5. 8:30pm. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Meeting Men Party

An experience of gay intimacy. \$10. 7-10pm, doors close 7:30pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. (510) 532-0274.

Nutrition and HIV

Mary Romeyn M.D. offers guidance in taking control of health thru better nutrition. Harvey Milk Institute. \$15. 11am-1pm. Life Conf. Center, 1675 California. 552-7200.

Psycho Monkey on Planet Earth

Disfigured young man and his twisted family tree: monologue with dance, original score, presented by The Marsh. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/23. \$15. Norse Auditorium, 275 Hayes. 826-5750.

Relationships:

"What Makes Them Work?" workshop with Joseph H. Neisen, Harvey Milk Institute. \$45. 12-5pm. 584 B Castro. 552-7200.

Shut Up and Dance

Workshop taught by Rick Darnell and members of the High Risk Group. \$7-15. 12-2pm. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

Spit Out Your Gun...

"It's School Policy, a comedy? about teaching" by Miriam Engelberg and Gayle Schmitt. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm. Sun. at 2:30pm thru 3/31. \$12. Asian American Theatre, 403 Arguello. 922-6841.

Troubled Vixens TV Show

White trash dance party extravaganza benefits Playstute, with Robbie D., Enrique, Oneswene, Marzipan. \$5-10. 9pm. Somar Theater, 934 Brannan. 824-8844.

Walking the Dead

Keith Curran's play focuses on a woman who undergoes female-to-male sex change. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/13, call for times. \$12-18. Tonight at 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Sunday 24

City Swing

Big band with vocalist Gail Wilson plays swing, ballroom, Latin and two-step; free dance class at 2pm. \$12. 2-

6pm. Crystal Ballroom, Ramada Hotel, 1231 Market. 554-0402.

Community Center

Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center hosts 15th Anniversary Celebration. 1-5pm. 175 Stockton, San Jose. (408) 293-3040.

DragStrip

Genderbending club, hosted by Arturo Galster, Birdy-Bob Watt; Fishstix, JJ Blakk, Leigh Crow performing. more. \$7 in drag, \$11 otherwise; benefits Godfather Service Fund. 9pm-2am. 375 11th St. 331-9595 x300.

Echobelly

Multicultural polysexual Brit-poppers. \$10. 8pm. Fillmore, 1805 Geary. 346-6000.

Gay-Lesbian Parenting

Community forum, film, lunch. \$2. 1pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, Clipper and Sanchez. 647-8393.

In a Family Way

Rochelle Hollander Schwab reads from her novel on lesbian and gay parenting, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Ann Magnuson

Performing songs from *The Luv Show* \$14. 8pm. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell. 885-0750.

Thorns and Vines...

"And reading between the lines," erotic sculptural work by Jadine Lum, thru 5/11. Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. 626-1672.

Monday 25

Gay Comedy Open Mike

M.C. Lisa Geduldig, aspiring queer comics sign up by

phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Goldfield & Koldewyn

Musical team in songs romantic and vaudevillian, Mondays thru 4/8. \$10/2 drink min/m. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Holy Joe

Billy Valentine's poker-playin', beer-drinkin' acoustic rock 'n' roll. 8pm. Mad Magda's Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-1441.

Oscar Night at the Exit

Big-screen TV, food, drink, festivity, fundraiser for Fringe Festival. \$5. 5pm. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 673-3847.

Oscar Night Fever

Dancing, food, wine, simulcast, auction, the Village People. Benefits Napa Valley AIDS Project. \$50-100. Napa Valley Exposition, 575 3rd St., Napa. (707) 257-TOTO.

Outerworld

Academy of Friends presents Oscar Night Gala benefiting eight Bay Area AIDS organizations. Space theme, telecast, live entertainment, cuisine. \$150. 5:30pm. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. 252-0713.

Tuesday 26

Merry Alpern

Window series: photographs of hookers and johns. Thru

4/27. Shapiro Sutter. 398-

Fibra

Celia Munoz Also: Ed Ost Fred Tomase be Transpor Community 6/2. Center Mission. 978-

Posing

New work b with Putting Bed, new w Shor. Thru 4 Clark Gallery 399-1439.

Positive:

"A Visual A tion curated includes Sar Aulerich-Sug Dashiell, Joh Linwood, mo thru 3/27. M Center, 2866 777-8242.

Le Voyage Arizona

Paintings an African Fren Wilson. Thru Wicker Fine Natoma. 512-

What Ab

Exhibition "f ily" - science brance, runs The Explorat Lyon. 563-7-

Nahum B

Graphic wor Mexican arti Polanco Gall 252-5753.

Wednesday

The Assu

Sketch come mockery of l thru March. Car Theatre, 956-8497.

Beach B Babylon

Musical tour world now in Family. Wed



Saturday ►

Cynthia Bruckman portrays 20s starlet Clara Bow, the "It" Girl, in *It* at the Climate Theatre.

Photo: Denise Martin



◀ Monday

Holy Joe, poker-playin', beer-drinkin' acoustic rock 'n' roll band led by Billy Valentine (pictured), plays Mad Magda's.

free. 7:30pm.
Modern Times,
888 Valencia.
282-9246.

PHFFFT—

"An Air Pulsated Kinetic Sound Environment" installation piece by sound artist Trimpin. Thru 4/27. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Purle Victorious

Ossie Davis' comedy about race relations in the old South. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/30. \$8-12. Multi Ethnic Theatre, Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro. 550-8161.

Singing Nun

The Tragic and Horrible Life of the Singing Nun written and directed by Blair Fell. Wed.-Sun., call for times. \$20. Tonight at 8pm. Grove St. Playhouse, 39 Grove. 279-4200.

Slavs!

"Thinking About the Longstanding Problems of Virtue and Happiness," by Tony Kushner. Tues.-Sun. thru 4/19, call for times. \$21.50-\$34. Tonight at 8pm. Berkeley Rep Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

Starhawk

Storytelling, drumming and chanting by visionary author of *The Fifth Sacred Thing*. \$10-15. 7:30pm. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero. 255-7623.

Andrew Lloyd Webber:

"Music of the Night," theatrical concert starring Kevin

Gray. Tues.-Sat. thru 4/7, call for times. \$30-62.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre. 776-1999.

Wild Imaginings

Group show of works on paper, thru 4/10. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Thursday 28

Bingo

Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. Doors 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. 241-0425.

Faulkner's Bicycle

Heather McDonald's play: family ties in Mississippi, headliner of 2nd Annual Working Women festival. \$10-12. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/31. 450 Geary Studio Theatre. 673-1172.

Flesh Flash

"The Body Electric." Rick Herold's nude paintings on vinyl, thru 4/10. Naked Art Gallery, 355 Bryant, Loft 110. 284-0567.

Foot Friends

Foot fetishist party. \$10. 7pm. For location call (718) 832-7153.

Heartbreak

In Jack Heifner's play, a writer exploits his best friends and earnest lover. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/30. \$12-16. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Conservatory Opera Theatre presents staged production of Britten's opera. \$15. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm. Sun. at 2pm. Hellman Hall, SF Conservatory of Music, 1201 Ortega. 759-3475.

Tina Modotti

Exhibition of work by modernist photographer, thru 6/2. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

4/27, Shapiro Gallery, 250 Sutter. 398-6655.

Fibra

Celia Munoz's installation. Also: Ed Osborn's *Parabolica*, Fred Tomaselli's *The Urge to be Transported*, and Community Photo. \$4. Thru 5/2. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Posing

New work by Angela Lim, with *Putting the Roads to Bed*, new work by Jayne Shor. Thru 4/2. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Positive:

"A Visual Aid Legacy" exhibition curated by Larry Rinder, includes Sam Allen, Ed Aulench-Sugai, David Cannon Dashiell, John Davis, Elliott Linwood, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/27. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission. 777-8242.

Le Voyage en Arizona

Paintings and pastels by African French artist William Wilson. Thru 4/6. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

What About AIDS?

Exhibition "for the whole family"—science, art, remembrance, runs thru 6/2. \$9. The Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon. 563-7337.

Nahum B. Zenil

Graphic works by a leading Mexican artist, thru 4/20. Polanco Gallery, 393 Hayes. 252-5753.

Wednesday 27

The Associates

Sketch comedy that makes a mockery of hypocrisy. Wed. thru March. \$10. 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical tour around the world now includes the Royal Family. Wed.-Sun., call for

times. \$18-45. Tonight at 8pm. Club Fugazi, 678 Green. 421-4222.

Land of Paradox:

"Japanese Landscape Photography" exhibit, thru 5/19. \$4. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Lesbian & Gay Open Reading

Reading works-in-progress.



◀ Tuesday

Elisabeth Sunday's *Man in Bloom*, Zaire is part of Community Photo at Center for the Arts.

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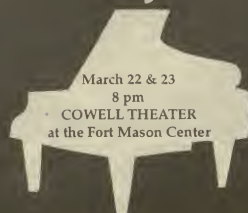
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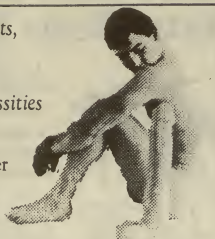
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BAY AREA REPORTER BAZAAR

MR. MARCUS

Flash: Sash Rash Dash

For people in the community who are deeply concerned about such matters, San Francisco's leather tribe gets in high gear this week with activities that will result in the awarding of bar leather titles — which all leads up to the 18th Annual Mr. San Francisco Leather Contest at the Alcazar Theatre on April 20.

Last night (Wednesday, March 20), Daddy's Bar on Castro staged its first Mr Daddy's Leather contest. Of course, deadlines being what they are, I won't have the results or photos for you until next week, but the winner received \$300 in prize money and a title vest, not to mention the distinction of being the first-ever Mr. Daddy's Leather.

The consensus these days is that a leather vest with the title emblazoned on the back is more desirable than a sash. After all, the sashes are usually too small to use as a sling and too big to wear without eliciting stares from both vanilla and non-vanilla people.

Tonight (Thursday, March 21), the San Francisco Eagle will stage its contest to pick the man who will succeed Wolf Mirasol, who went on to win the Mr. San Francisco Leather '96 title last year. He also competed in Chicago at IML. The winner, again, will reap a \$300 cash prize and a title vest.

Next week, Tuesday, March 26, The Edge Bar will select Mr. Edge Leather '96 (again a \$300 cash prize and a title vest). Eric Weinman has lined up an impressive program for the evening, with leather contest guru Paul Causey heavily involved and a seasoned panel of judges.

The surprise of the season is that the Castro Station bar has decided to (finally) participate in the sash rash game. Mr. Castro Station Leather '96 (another first!) will be chosen on Wednesday, April 3. The winner gets a \$100 cash prize, and the runner-up will get \$50. At my deadline, details of the Castro Station contest were incomplete, but applications for the competition are available at all the sponsoring bars. If you want to try for the coveted Mr. San Francisco Leather title, feel free to enter, with or without a sponsor. The

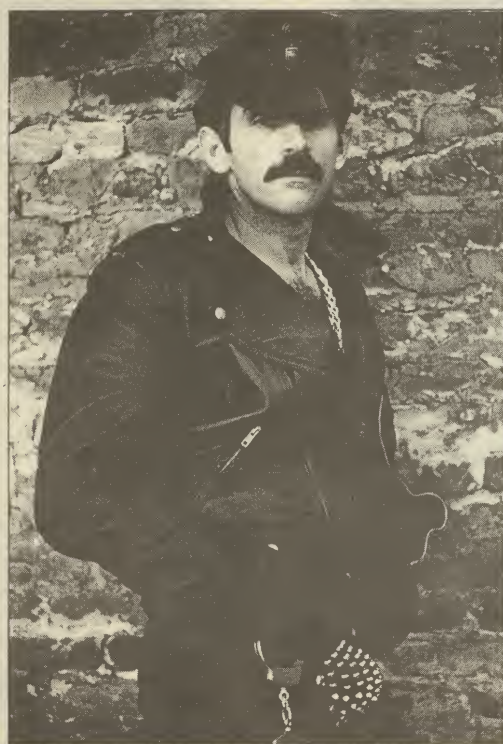


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Mike Martin, sponsored by The Brig Bar, competed in the Second IML Contest at the Radisson Hotel in Chicago in 1980. The National Organization of Women, 5,000 strong, shared the hotel with the leathermen, and eyebrows were raised the entire weekend.

major rule for Mr. SF Leather is that you be a resident for at least one year.

In the meantime, tickets for Mr. SF Leather '96 are going fast. You may want to check the floor plan of the Alcazar Theatre, and you can do that by visiting Mercury Mail Order (4084 18th), or Mister S Leather at 7th and Folsom, or at their store in the SF-Eagle.

San Francisco is not alone in sending hopefuls to Chicago next May. This weekend, there's big action in the Land of Enchantment, as The Sandia Leather Men and Women host the Mr. and Ms. New Mexico Leather contests on Saturday night, March 23. The Ranch Bar is the site of the extravaganza, and Mr. New Mexico Leather '95 Buddy LaRue and Ms. New Mexico Leather '95 Lady Willow will be passing their titles on to their successors. A distinguished panel of judges from around the county will choose the winner during what is always a fun, leathery weekend in an enthusiastic, growing leather community.

Leather Pride Week begins this weekend in Seattle with a myriad of functions. One of the main events is the third anniversary of Seattle's leather mainstay, The Cuff Bar. On Saturday night, March 30, Mr. Washington State Leather will be chosen there. I'll be head judge, and will bring you the photos and results in time for the April 4 issue.

In the meantime, contests big and small are being staged all over the country. Mr. San Diego Eagle Leather '96 was chosen last weekend, succeeding the dynamic Al Reese, who did a great job with the title and went on to Chicago

last May to grab the first runner-up spot.

As IML weekend in Chicago looms ever larger, the contestant roster grows almost daily. Estimates run to 50 or more this year. Memorial Day weekend should yet again be a very exciting time in the Windy City!

In other areas of interest to our tribe, SMMILE (the people who bring you the Dore Alley Fair and the Folsom Street Fair) have issued a call for submissions to the poster design contest for the 1996 Folsom event in September. The theme should reflect the SoMa lifestyle and the fair itself. A \$100 prize will go to the winning design. The deadline at SMMILE (369 12th St., SF 94103) is April 9.

And while on the subject of SMMILE, it is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Derek Yeager, the president of SMMILE, early Saturday morning, March 16. Derek was another enthusiastic man who moved here from Phoenix, Ariz., several years ago. He had been a leather title holder (Mr. Copper State MC Drummer Boy) in the late '80s and competed for that title in the Mr. Southwest Drummer Contest. He worked hard and long to enhance the image of SMMILE, and inspired his board of directors to record-breaking fundraising with last year's fair. Memorial services were held last night (March 20) at his residence. Continuing the tradition of SMMILE, Paul Lester will assume the role of acting president.

Just what we need — another fetish organization! This time, it's the NDC (National Dildo Club). Its purpose is to establish a contact roster and personal ads for those inclined, and to print a newsletter

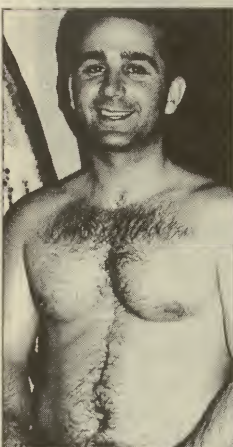


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Stewart Kloda, a physician from Atlanta, Ga., won the Mr. June 1997 spot on the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, March 14, over five other contestants. Mr. July will be chosen on Thursday, March 28.

Eventures in Leather

All phone numbers are in the 415 area code unless otherwise indicated.

Thursday, March 21

Mr. San Francisco Eagle Leather contest promptly at 2100 tonight. Rose of the GDIs, Wolf Mirasol, Andy Rosa, and Art Tomaszewski are among the judges for the competition. Some lucky person will win \$300 cash, a title vest and represent the Eagle at the Mr. SF Leather contest.

Tonight and tomorrow night, Michelle Handelman's 77-minute film, *Blood Sisters*, premieres at the Roxie Theatre on 16th St. It's a sexpositive documentary about the SF leather dyke community. You'll see a lot of people in it that you know. Call 431-3611 for times and cost.

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at Daddy's, 2000-2300, for a paltry \$6, with a 50/50 raffle.

Week, March 22-31

Leather Pride Week in Seattle, with tons of things going on every night. Cuff Bar celebrates its third anniversary, and Mr. Washington State Leather contest is Saturday, March 30. I understand a horde of people from here are going, including the Widow Norton!

Weekend, March 22-24

1996 Mr. and Ms. New

Mexico Leather get chosen on Saturday night, after a meet and greet on Friday at The Ranch bar, contest on Saturday night, and farewell brunch on Sunday.

Saturday, March 23

Celebrating the life of Bill ("Mr. Bill") Ireton of the GDIs at the Men's Room at 1300 today. He was a mainstay of that club, always a gentleman, dignified, and proud of his role in the club community.

Golden Gate MC hosts a beer bust at the SF-Eagle, 2000-2300, \$6. It's a benefit for their building fund and should be quite festive.

The 15 Association's monthly play party, entitled "Spring Cleaning," from 2100 to 0200 tomorrow. Donation is \$10, and you can get an invite and the location by calling 673-0452.

Sunday, March 24

GDIs throw a garage sale today from 1000 in the morning until 1400 at 489 Sanchez (at 18th) - lots of bargains if that's your thing. Are you reading this, Peter Fiske?

The 15 Association hosts the Eagle beer bust, 1500-1800, with a freestyle bondage contest and a cage for your indulgence. This one sounds like fun, and food is included for the \$8 fee.

Tuesday, March 26

Mr. Edge Leather '96 contest at the Edge with Danny Williams emceeing. The \$7 beer bust is from 2000 to 2300, and the contest is at 2100. Winner gets \$300 cash and a title vest, and will compete in Mr. SF Leather on April 20. Dream dates with Big Basket winners. Call Eric at 863-4027 if you want to compete for the title.

Wednesday, March 27

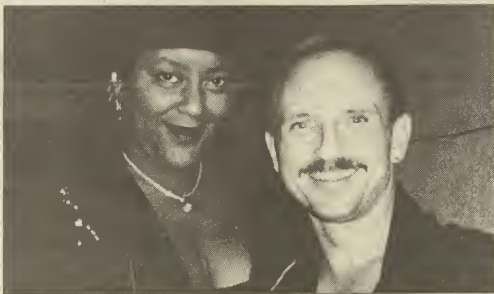
Golden Gate Guards beer bust at Daddy's, 2000-2300, for \$6 and fun galore. Find out who's next on the resignation list if you dare ask!

Thursday, March 28

On the home stretch, tonight Mr. July 1997 will be chosen at the SF-Eagle's Bare Chest Contest. It looks like there will be some entries in the coming weeks from Los Angeles and San Diego for sure. Win \$100, glory, fame, the whip of Lee Tucker and the tongue of Jerry Roberts, who right about now is hunting lions in Africa (without his bike!).

Saturday, March 30

Mr. Washington State Leather contest at Neighbors in Seattle. Hear there are over a half-dozen contestants already. Ms. Carmen Rodriguez is ecstatic and so are her husband and ex-husband! ▼



Former AIDS Emergency Fund president Art Tomaszewski (r) will be one of the judges for the Mr. SF Eagle leather contest tonight. Ms. SF Leather Queen Cougar (l) will be judging another contest later this year.

staged their annual spring equinox beer bust. The weather was absolutely gorgeous all weekend, so everyone was out and about wearing green on Sunday. Empress Cockatielia made an appearance at the Eagle and was well received.

Later that evening, another in-

teresting group converged at Eichelberger's for the Peter Fiske roast. I couldn't make it to the \$25 dinner/affair, a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, but I hear it was quite spicy. Yes, spring begins this week (March 20), and everyone seems eager to enjoy all there is of it. ▼



These six studly dudes competed for the June 1997 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar last Thursday, March 14, at the SF-Eagle.

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L.A.'s Girl Jesus



If you missed Girl Jesus' performance at Faster Pussycat last night, you've got a second chance to catch these fierce dykes rock out before they head back down to their native Los Angeles. Kind of like the Southern California version of Tribe 8, these women write dark, dynamic songs, seeped in aggression and up-front sexuality. Lead singer Gayle Walker has a powerful howl, lending conviction to her often-politicized lyrics. With their loud sound and forceful presence, I dare say that seeing Girl Jesus comes pretty close to having a religious experience—it just depends on what religion you are. ▼

—Adrian Roberts

Girl Jesus plays at 9 pm this Saturday, March 23rd, at Nightbreak, 1821 Haight St. For more info, call 221-9008.



On Saturday, March 23 the founding donors of the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center of San Francisco's New Main Library will be honored at a preview of the Center at 7 p.m. at the still-under-construction New Main Library (corner of Larkin & Fulton Streets). The evening will be a benefit for the Center's collections and include an unveiling of the Center's defining mural, *Into the Light*, by local artists Mark Evans and Charley Brown. The Center will be open to the public and be dedicated on April 18 along with the New Main Library. The major donor's and media preview will take place from 7-11 p.m. with a cocktail reception, followed by a brief ceremony culminating in a roving buffet dinner and dance party.

Think Tank

Since the San Francisco Public Library opened its doors for business in 1917, the facility has been located in the same place in Civic Center Plaza at Larkin and McCallister Streets. That is, until now. On April 18, San Francisco

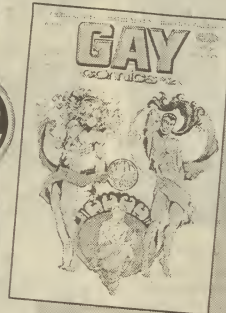
will get a new library, the realization of a dream set into motion in the late '80s by the voters of San Francisco, the Library Foundation and generous private donations. The New Main Library, located at the corner of Larkin & Fulton Streets, will be unique for myriad reasons, among them the fact that it will house the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, the first such research center of its kind devoted to gay and lesbian culture to be included in a mainstream public institution.

Comprised of published and non-published works, the James C. Hormel Center's collection will be national, international and local, with a special emphasis on the Bay Area. Highlights of the collection will include notes and research materials from the Randy Shilts' and Harvey Milk collections; the

archives of Naiad Press, courtesy of the Barbara Grier and Donna McBride collection; the Rob Epstein collection of materials from his Academy-Award-winning documentaries *The Times of Harvey Milk* and *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt*; personal papers of poet and novelist Steve Abbott; all materials related to the production of the groundbreaking 1977 documentary *Word Is Out* by Peter Adair; personal papers and writing of African-American poet and activist Pat Parker; and the Aaron Fricke collection of manuscripts and correspondence related to such works as *The Story of A Gay Son* and *His Father*. (For more details on the New Main Library and the James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, pick up the April 4 edition of *The Bay Area Reporter*.) ▼

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BOOKS

McMystery

Closet by R.D. Zimmerman;
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by Deborah Peifer

With thinning red hair, Rick emerged from the kitchen and stepped down into the sunken living room. "If there were justice in the world, I could quote that line and move on to other reviews, secure in the knowledge that the reader would understand just how awful this novel is. Alas, I must say more, lest there be confusion as to the repellent nature of R.D. Zimmerman's first (the horror) Todd Mills mystery.

Closet is Zimmerman's pat on his own back for coming out, and while I applaud any queer's decision to leave hiding, that choice alone does not a satisfying mystery make. Todd Mills is a TV news guy in Minneapolis, hiding, much to his lover's dismay, behind a closet door made of solid steel. Todd even has a lesbian friend who acts as his beard when he attends station functions. After one horrendous fight with his lover, Michael, Todd runs out into the night, and,

over the course of pages and pages of vapid and superficial introspection, decides that it is time to blow open his closet door. Rushing to Michael's house to share the news, Todd discovers the true meaning of "Timing is everything" when he sees Michael's body being taken out in a bag. Todd blurts his relationship with Michael on the TV news, and becomes chief suspect. Ooooooohhhhh, scary.

Actually, it should be. Zimmerman had a chance to do some serious exploration of homophobia, which could have started with analyzing the assumption that the phrase "gay psycho-killer" is redundant. Instead, he chose to use every single cliché from the drab writer's handbook, including the tired detective-falls-in-love-with-chief-suspect trick (the suspect falls for the dick's dick as well).

Closet is 308 long pages devoted to Todd's self-indulgent meditation: closet bad; out of the closet good. Add to this the heavy-handed portrayal of TV news, an absolutely unbelievable denouement, and tedious, plastic characters, and you've got *Closet*, a novel guaranteed to give gay fiction a bad name. ▼

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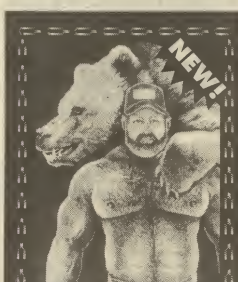
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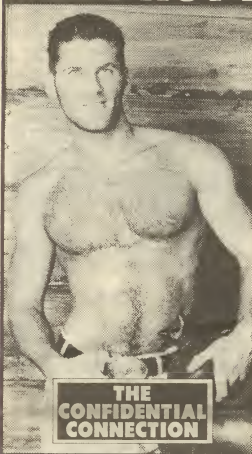
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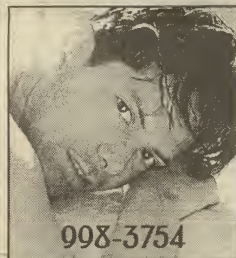
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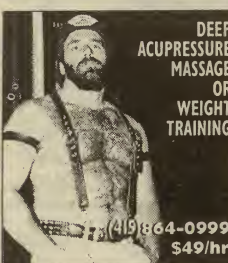
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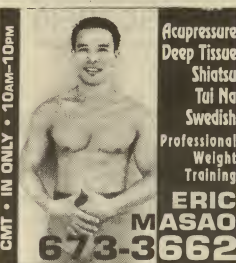
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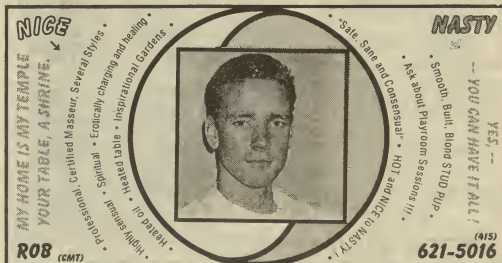
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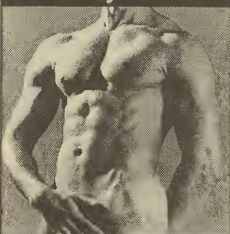
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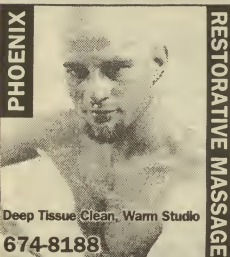


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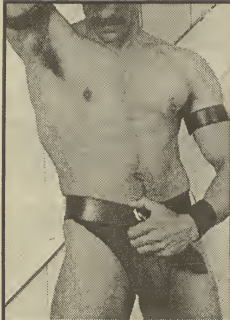
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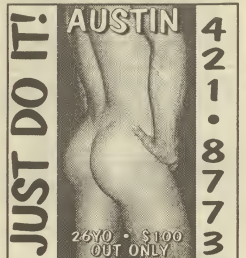
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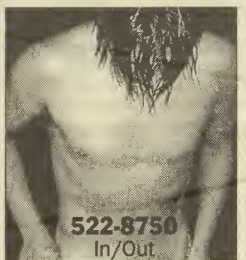
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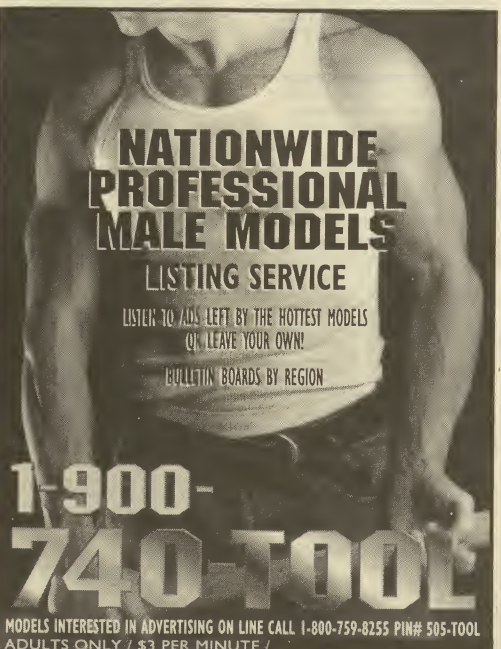
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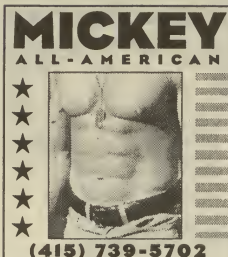
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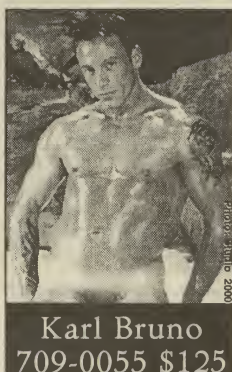
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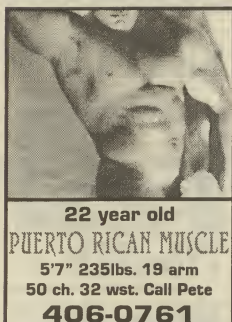
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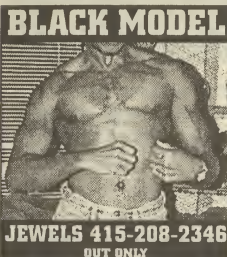
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